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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Lord Curzon's arrival at Koweit has been made less of than his first visit to the Sultan of Muscat; but it is at Koweit that the centre of influence is found. The arrival was attended with the picturesque ceremony which must have much enhanced the local effect of the visit; but the gist lies in the repetition of the sentiment in each of Lord Curzon's speeches, that in continuance of the policy which has ensured peace on the Gulf for the last forty years, no alliances, commercial or political, shall be made wifh other nations than Great Britain. It is natural enough that the Russian press, aware of the political efforts lately made to establish "interests" on the Gulf, should twist this insistence on the maintenance of the established position into a preparation for remoter ends. The same line of suggestion is adopted in connexion with the expedition to Thibet. But, apart from a general suspicion of a rival, the Russian press are as well aware as the Russian Government that in both cases the expeditions are acts of resistance not aggression.

There is a widespread belief that Japan and Russia have arrived at the grounds of a general arrangement, even if no definite treaty has been signed. But if it is true that Japan has agreed to accept from Russia, in return for similar privileges in Manchuria, a predominant position in Korea, both countries have for a moment abated something of their traditional policy. Perhaps a surer sign that some definite proposal has been offered and considered is that General or Admiral Alexeieff is making a journey to S. Petersburg. He would scarcely at such a crisis have arranged his journey to coincide with the opening of the Japanese Diet, if he had not some definite proposal to discuss in S. Petersburg. Nevertheless the growing intensity of popular feeling in Japan and the absence of official news suggest that the crisis is still suspended and the postponement for a few days of the meeting of the Japanese Diet points to the same conclusion. Nor can we expect the publication of any final settlement until Admiral Alexeieff has had time to confer in S. Petersburg. In the interval the professional makers of

rumours in the several capitals will have admirable scope for dramatic conjecture.

The general acceptance by the Porte of the Russo-Austrian note has not wholly relieved the stress of the position. The details of the scheme leave room for prolonged haggling and the Porte seems to have decided to interpret as derogatory to Turkish prestige the first two articles of the scheme, the appointment of civil agents from Austria and Russia to "assist" the Inspector-General and the appointment of a foreign general over the gendarmerie, the only two clauses of any real value. Nevertheless it is something that the rebellion has died out, or been crushed out, for the time. Will the wrangling be over before the spring comes to promote the usual rising? Unhappily the distress in Macedonia is great, and Sir Nicholas O'Conor, who was never of the sentimentalists, has addressed a letter from Constantinople emphasising the increased need of relief funds; and in Sofia a considerable sum has been voted on behalf of the refugees.

It is far from wholly good news for France that the Dreyfus affair is to be reopened; but M. Vallé's decision to appoint a commission to sift the fresh evidence collected is a natural outcome of the indictment made by M. Jaurès in April. M. Cavaignac deliberately suppressed a letter written by General de Pellieux at the time of his resignation accusing his military superiors of suborning him to compose forgeries. M. Cavaignac failed wholly to rebut the indictment and M. Jaurès' "new fact", if it does not go very far towards proof of Dreyfus' innocence, further exposes the calumnious intrigues of his Nationalist enemies. The revision should at least do away with the anomaly, ludicrous if it were not also tragic, that a man convicted of the worst national crime should be acquitted on the ground of extenuating circumstances. Most English people will be glad of the revision, as it was generally felt that there was never evidence enough to convict; but it is sincerely to be hoped that the British public and press will not repeat its excited meddling with a neighbour's business, of which most of us now perceive the mistake.

In the meantime Paris is very calm over the Affair. Only M. Rochefort has something new to say: he regards it as deeply significant that the reopening of the Affair should occur at the close of the English Parliamentary visit. M. Drumont and M. Millevoye tell us for the hundredth time that France has been sold to Germany

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and the poet M. François Coppée even shed tears when informed of this fresh proof of the "decadence" of his "beloved country". But the man in the street, faithful to the doctrine of "N'en parlons plus", says nothing. And nine Frenchmen out of ten have lost all interest in the Affair. The rehabilitation of Captain Dreyfus would no longer offend them, so long as it were accomplished without disorder. But should either Dreyfusards or anti-Dreyfusards revive the old agitation, then will Captain Dreyfus find himself more unpopular than ever.

The Reichstag was opened, for the first time in the nistory of the Empire, in the absence of the Kaiser. The one note of enthusiasm during the session followed the declaration of the Kaiser's recovery and his thanks for sympathy. Count von Bülow had a difficult task. He had to acknowledge a state of commercial depression—dependent perhaps as much on bad budgets as on the state of trade—and to ask for a virtual post-ponement of further army expenditure. The bulk of his speech was concerned with the complicated proposals for the rearrangement of the imperial financial system, especially as it concerns the relations of the empire and the federated states, a measure very necessary but hardly provocative of popular enthusiasm. The references to foreign politics were wholly unremarkable, except perhaps for a statement, which the sentimentalist may regard as callous, that German interests in the Balkan States "only stand in the second line".

The acuteness of the labour question in the Transvaal has among other incidents brought about the resignation of Mr. Wybergh, the Commissioner of Mines. In his letter of resignation to Sir A. Lawley he accuses the Government—to whom by a strange contradiction in terms he attributes the best motives—of being unduly influenced by the great, or perhaps big, financiers and of having lost touch with the people. Sir A. Lawley of course repudiates the suggestion, which is on the face of it as deficient in candour as in politeness. The necessity of importing labour is gradually being forced on the community and Mr. Wybergh is a confirmed believer in the possibility of finding sufficient white labour. It is suggested that his official position prevented him from taking the lead of the party which he supports and that his resignation is a preliminary to a campaign in opposition to the introduction of Chinese labour. Mr. Wybergh is an able man, and one can understand objections to yellow labour. But it should be apparent to the narrowest patriot that the welfare of the country depends chiefly on the full development of the mines and that this is at a standstill solely from want of cheap labour. Let him find cheap labour if he can. If he cannot there is only one alternative left for any patriot.

Mr. Wybergh's resignation has been followed by a unanimous vote from the Chamber of Mines in favour of the importation of Chinese labourers, with due arrangements for their repatriation when the special work shall have been completed. Sir A. Lawley has replied in a more than judicial tone. He promises, as if in answer to Mr. Wybergh, that the recommendation of the Chamber of Mines shall not be adopted if the feeling of the country is against it and gives an assurance, surely unnecessary, that every member of the Transvaal Government shall give an independent vote. Perhaps Sir A. Lawley could not commit himself further. But the unanimity of the Chamber of Mines proves again that none of the mines, except perhaps one or two of the richest, can pay a dividend unless the 6s. per ton, which represents the difference between the employ of white and Chinese unskilled labour, is saved; and however the case is regarded it is acknowledged that until the mines pay the progress of the country, for the agricultural community as well as the mining population, is indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Alfred Lyttelton has certainly the art of graceful speaking. At the dinner given to Lord Northcote on the eve of his departure to Australia he said and omitted just the right things. He omitted fiscal references but his adaptation of the delightful answer, given

by Lady Norton, in her old age, to a shild who asked her if she were young, fit admirably that imperial taxation which Mr. Chamberlain lurges. The nation is "very young but has been very young for a great many years". Lord Northcote will find Australia whither he goes very much younger than India whence he comes; and this new position will be as different as possible from the old. But perhaps both need similar qualities and we may take Lord Northcote's success in Bombay as a test of capacity for the Governor-Generalship of Australia. Only let him not quote with a recent Governor-General the works of Mr. Kipling. He may find apter and politer passages in the poems of his predecessor's father.

With unanimity, resembling the unanimity of the English Press, the American papers united to belittle the value of the two tiny islands which Lord Alverstone, after a sudden change of view still unexplained, ultimately surrendered to the United States, without consulting the Canadian Commissioners. It is now announced that one of the islands is to be fortified. The Americans have in the past shown admirable wisdom in avoiding excessive fortifications and we have too much confidence in their perception of their own self-interest to believe that their scheme of fortification is in any degree superfluous. It is rather a proof of the correctness of the Canadian view, apparent even on the smallest map, that the ceded islands command the entrance to the Portland Channel. We are congratulated on having got rid of a cause of friction. It may be that these proposed forts will be a concrete cause of irritation at least as great as the presence of any unsettled dispute.

Mr. Balfour gave the United Club last week the army and nothing but the army. In ordinary circumstances we should have said he was much to be commended for this; since Englishmen can hardly be got to consider seriously the most serious aspects of their national life. But in the peculiar circumstances of the day we maintain that Mr. Balfour made a mistake in shirking the fiscal question. We can well understand his reasons, but they do not mend matters. The point of Mr. Balfour's speech was the declaration of his private opinion that home defence was a matter for the navy, and had nothing to do with the regular army. The view may be sound, but if so, Mr. Balfour should have dispensed with the confidence he expressed that "patriotism" would supply the rest; that Volunteers were all that was required in the way of land defence. If the navy prove sufficient, land forces will not be called on; if the navy fall short, "patriotism" will avail nothing. We must also take exception to his antithesis opposing conscription to the outcome of the "free will of a free people". This is an unworthy fallacy. If a democratic community decides in favour of compulsory service, such service is as much a free institution as "volunteering". Mr. Balfour might as well describe compulsory education and taxes as opposed to the free will of a free people.

The British Government has completed a bargain. The two Chilian battleships which have "been in the market" for some time and were refused by Mr. Balfour at the beginning of the year at the price of £2,200,000 have been bought for £1,875,000. Mr. Balfour will be posing as the rival of Disraeli, as an Imperial man of business. The reduction of over £300,000 is substantial, though his purchase cannot compete with the beating down by the American Government of the Panama properties. The ships are not quite to Admiralty pattern; but they are from designs approved by our chief naval constructor and built in the best English yards. They are capable of 19 knots and are heavily armed. The chief structural failing is in coal capacity. But the compulsion to buy the ships comes less from the absolute need and value of the ships than the menace of their sudden purchase by another nation in the event of a crisis. The one fear is that in the face of the cry for economy which the Opposition is beginning to raise, the new ships

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may be taken as a full equivalent for vessels already in the naval programme.

It was announced in a northern paper at the end of last week that the Monmouthshire Steel and Tinplate Works were to be closed because it was found impossible to compete with German and American dumped steel. In spite of this announcement, which we commented on briefly last week, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who preached against the audacity of Mr. Chamberlain, declared that the state of the tinplate industry more than any other proved the benefit of free trade. The thousand men who would be thrown out of employment by the closing of the works would hardly share Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's view of the benefits to the country resulting from the chance to buy steel so cheap. The great difficulty in the problem of poverty is caused by the irregularity of demand to which the supplying industry must respond. Markets of course must always be more or less intermittent, but the natural irregularities are as nothing to the disturbance created by dumping tactics. The policy of dumping makes English labourers suffer from the slackness not only of the English markets but of all the markets in the protected countries; and this news from Monmouthshire is an example which no fair critic can shirk.

Mr. Brailsford, the chairman of the Ebbw Steelworks, in a letter to Mr. Chamberlain, has given another and yet more convincing instance. Nearly 200,000 tons of German steel entered Newport during the first ten months of this year. It was sold at £1 15s. per ton less than the same steel in Germany and at about 6s. less per ton than English steel in England. The price is fixed by the "Cartel" with a double object: to evade the evil of our production and to establish a market, both in the raw and finished material. Mr. Brailsford considers, and has every means of knowing, that the English trade, already much damaged, is being killed by the strategy of the "Cartel". To argue that the loss to trade is compensated by the cheapness of the stuff is to ignore the first object of the caucus of German manufacturers. As soon as they have succeeded in closing English works, the price will be put up without a pretence at delay; and, apart from immediate loss of employment, it is not possible for any crushed industry to rise quickly in response to the increased price. A market is not recovered or skilled labour acquired in a moment or according to the "paper" laws of political economy.

At Workington Mr. Wyndham made some interesting and important remarks on the working and the success of the Irish Land Act. He pointed out that the Government of Ireland was cheaper now that it had been a year ago and this at a time when our credit was depressed. He is confident that great economies will be effected under the new measure. From Ireland he passed on to the fiscal question. We cannot say that he illumined the subject particularly. The peroration was purplish, and perhaps for the millionth time within the last few months the chain of Empire was "linked". Mr. Wyndham predicted that if only we carried out this linking process "neither time nor fate will diminish the glory of the Empire or its future prospects". And so on. We suppose that the elector must have fine perorations, but we could wish that they were served out to him by lesser men than Mr. Wyndham. In any case the link metaphor should be given a rest. It has done as great service as the big and little loaf.

The metropolitan by-elections do not appear to be exciting much attention as yet. Truly Lewisham and Dulwich are not very interesting constituencies. Villa districts are usually "stupid" in the traditional sense of "the stupid party". As a charge against a certain form of Conservatism, the word cannot be said to be altogether misplaced; and it is in southern suburban parts that such Conservatism mostly prevails. Otherwise, we should feel perfectly happy about the results of the elections. But to grasp the Imperial issues raised in the fiscal controversy requires intelligence of a kind for which the modest middle class

is not conspicuous. If an opponent of fiscal reform has to be elected, we would as soon see Mr. Charles Masterman in Parliament as anyone. His interest in working-class questions is real, and his knowledge not small. Then he has literary feeling, and is a good Churchman.

Mr. Chamberlain's cultivation of the press is amazingly successful. The old diplomatists in this line preferred to work behind the scenes. Mr. Gladstone in old days, we have heard, was gently reminded more than once by his friends that he ought to bring the glamour of his personality to bear on, for instance, "Tonans". But it pained his fine sensibility that these things should be necessary; as much as possible he would waive aside such suggestions. Mr. Chamberlain works the press oracle quite openly. No one can say that he is not aboveboard in this. He has just added yet another evening paper, the "Sun", hitherto hostile, to his score; and he has written a long letter praising it for its new programme. Mr. Chamberlain's correspondence with editors and proprietors of papers supporting him must be growing formidable. He has far and away the largest circulation of any British statesman. In London alone it cannot be much less than two million a day. Lord Rosebery's has sunk dreadfully. The rest hardly count.

Mr. Chamberlain does not disguise his admiration for English pressmen. He never sneers at it openly or covertly; and though he has made a hard and fast rule of never identifying himself financially with any paper, he has heartily aided journalists again and again irrespective of their politics. We suppose there never was a more accessible statesman of the front rank, so far as the press is concerned. Mr. Chamberlain's attitude compares well with that of the cynical politician who follows Napoleon's advice to his brother and constitutes perhaps 90 per cent, of the Unionist party in the House of Commons. It is not unknown that most ambitious Parliamentarians, great and small, cultivate the press at some pains. But they cannot somehow muster courage to do it openly like Mr. Chamberlain. We believe that if Mr. Chamberlain had his way he would open the doors of the Carlton and Brooks's to able writers on and reporters of politics; in that case the bulk of the members of those clubs who cultivate the press would probably fly to Northumberland Avenue or to the opposition club in Whitehall Gardens.

In the best part of four columns the "Times" on Tuesday concluded an unhappy chapter in its history. The names of the successful competitors in the Encyclopædia competition were printed and the list was preceded by a column and a half of comment on the questions set. The winner of the £1,000 was an army tutor. We can only hope, on behalf of the educational value claimed for the competition, that it was not his capacity for mere cramming which was at the root of his success. It would also be interesting to know if the competition proved as educationally valuable to their pupils as to the three "headmasters" who devoted their busy days to the work. Attention is drawn to the instructive fact that twenty-six of the ninety-three successful competitors hired but did not buy the book. They have got the money without the book; but what targets for importunity they will become until the work is purchased!

Even at the Royal Society there are wire-pullings and contentions and rivalries but now Sir Archibald Geikie has won the contested secretaryship against Professor Halliburton science will no doubt renew her former sway. Professor Halliburton is quite a young man and will have his chance later; but the physiologists did not like losing their representative with the departure of Sir Michael Foster. Biology is too aggressive in these days to take snubs; but circumstances were too strong and the two secretaries now represent physics and geology. Possibly it will make no difference. The President's address consisted of biographies of members who had died during the year and an account of the medals granted to distinguished investigators. On the very day Sir Frederick Bramwell, a well-known member,

had died. The President's speech at the dinner recounting the services of the medallists and that of Sir A. Rücker on the retiring and new officers were the most interesting. M. and Mme. Curie, the discoverers of radium, who were presented with the Davy medal, were the guests who attracted most attention. M. Curie who responded for the medallists related how he got the material from the Austrian Government which enabled them to isolate radium, a discovery which marks an epoch in chemical history and introduces new conceptions of matter and its activities which appear to involve the most important consequences.

Sir Frederick Bramwell who died on Monday was as distinguished as an engineering expert witness in the committee rooms and at times in the Chancery Courts as his brother Lord Bramwell was as a Judge in the Courts at Westminster. Both earned enormous sums of money in their respective ways; and as at one time Bramwell the barrister was sure to be retained in a great commercial case so Bramwell the engineer was as anxiously sought after to give evidence. In fact they were both distinguished advocates and perhaps non-legal advocacy was at times a more difficult branch than that practised by the lawyer. Each had to exaggerate plausibly the side on which he was retained and minimise as skilfully as might be its defects; and eloquence and reticence at the proper time were weapons each had to use equally. Bramwell the engineer was at the head of his profession of expert witness and he owed this position to the combination of great knowledge of practical engineering with his personal impressiveness, gift of speech and shrewd knowledge of human nature. He was a member of the Royal Society; but was not distinguished in the more abstract regions of science.

Josef Mayr was a personality whose death will be felt in many nations. The lot fell on him to take the great part in the Ober-Ammergau Play in 1870 and he was one of those who immediately the play was over were called away to join the German army. He was a man great in many ways; a hater of publicity, we must believe his acting was a work of real worship. He deserves some memorial. In 1900 a few devoted friends of Ober-Ammergau proposed to endow a bed in the cottage hospital at Ober-Ammergau as a thankoffering from those English people who had seen and appreciated the Passion Play since 1870. At the suggestion of the Burgermeister it was decided to devote the money to the endowment of a fund for providing a sister to live in the hospital and go out daily to nurse the poor in their own homes. It would be very gratifying to the community if all who have known and appreciated Josef Mayr would complete the necessary sum.

We have yet another death to record, the death of a Saturday Reviewer, whose loss we feel deeply. Mr. Armine Kent was not very well known in the world either of scholars or of men of letters, but very few of the best known in that world are as really scholars and men of letters as was he. By his contemporaries at Balliol he will long be remembered for his winning manners and for his graceful and brilliant literary gift. Literature was his very being, so that pedantry and the affectation of being literary was utterly foreign to him. His friends were not pen-men, and he loved books for their own sake; not for what he could make from them. Utter absence of all business qualities, and absolute content that his light should be hid under a bushel, made success impossible for him. From Oxford to the end of his life, he hardly gave his brilliant abilities a chance to win their reward. That, however, was not the key to his repressed but persistent melancholy. The world, we suppose, would count Armine Kent a failure—certainly he was most interesting, as the world's failures often are, and he was a poet. Lines of his, printed in this Review not very long ago, shall be his epitaph:—

"Break, brightness, on my dark and let my soul,
Whose long cold night of mockery melts away,
Spring to the sunrise like a thing made whole,
Ambitious of the dayspring and the day."

MR. BALFOUR'S ARMY POLICY.

A PREMIER discoursing on army matters, throughout a comparatively lengthy speech, is a phenomenon which must apparently be attributed to the influence of the Defence Committee. At any rate it is extremely satisfactory as evidence that our leading politicians are now taking the subject more seriously, an example which we hope the nation generally will follow. It was perhaps a pity that Mr. Balfour should take such pains to rake up well-worn recriminations against the Liberal leaders, and to protest that the soldiers were to blame for South African miscalculations. Every impartial observer by this time knows that the late Liberal Government neglected their duties in this respect, and that their successors have done much to remedy matters. Still in face of Sir Henry Brackenbury's now notorious memorandum, written two months after war had begun, it can hardly be said that the Unionist Government has much to boast of. The war, he said, "had disclosed a situation as regards armaments, reserves of guns, ammunition, stores and clothing" which was "full of peril to the empire". It is true that Lord Wolseley's pledge that two army corps would be prepared to embark before the ships were ready was completely fulfilled as regards affairs under his own control. The mobilisation arrangements worked admirably, the reserve system did more than was ever expected, and the arrangements made for clothing and equipping menwere wholly satisfactory. But the Ordnance Department, about which Sir Henry Brackenbury speaks, was not under Lord Wolseley; and of what reserves there were in addition to those immediately required for equipping a field force, he was not qualified, nor did he, we imagine, intend to speak. Again conclusions and evidence of the War Commission are now public property, and it is useless to offer further explanation, although perhaps comparatively few of those who have formed their opinion on it have taken the trouble to read the report. On the other hand we have nothing but praise for the fearless manner in which Mr.

But these are minor points. The real issue is our future military policy. So far as concerns himself, Mr. Balfour tells us that there is no home defence problem, which sounds as if the future of Mr. Brodrick's last three army corps were somewhat precarious. "The Navy army corps were somewhat precarious. "The Navy can deal with home defence", and safeguard our shores; and thus for this purpose we require no regular forces. The inference, however, is that this view is not the joint one of the Defence Committee, but simply Mr. Balfour's own. Still the crux of the matter is—will the Admiralty guarantee that, unassisted, it can incur this liability? If it will, then of course Mr. Balfour is right, and he deserves gratitude for trying to place matters on this clear footing. Let us see what his contentions really amount to. "The navy can deal with contentions really amount to. "The navy can deal with home defence". Consequently it can attack the hostile home defence". squadrons which may threaten us; and can at the same time safeguard our shores from raids, and protect dockyards and arsenals without the our harbours, semi-regular land force, which hitherto has been considered a necessary adjunct. Three army corps are at least required for over-sea service; and any additional needs are to be met by "the enthusiasm and patriotism of a great people". Thus he admits in effect that three army corps may not be sufficient for meeting some eventualities, and in this we agree. But after these army corps have gone, what would, according to Mr. Balfour, remain? There would be no regulars to stiffen the patriotic mob; but to effect this purpose is

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only a skeleton of recruiting depôts and men who had been left behind as unfit. As regards these patriotic levies, we anticipate considerable difficulty. For it must be remembered that partly trained irregulars, hastily raised and organised, though more or less efficacious against an irregular enemy like the Boer, would be of little use against an army trained on the European system. Indeed we can see but one solution of the problem. Some system of compulsory service must be instituted, giving each able-bodied man a groundwork of military training; which will, when the time of stress comes, make it possible to turn him rapidly into a reasonably efficient soldier. Unless some such plan is adopted, enthusiasm and patriotism will carry us little further than "mafficking" in the streets. In any case to knock into shape these various details, whether regular or irregular, and subsequently to command such reinforcements as may be necessary at the seat of war, a considerable staff of highly experienced officers would be required. And where are these to come from? Mr. Balfour, it is true, alludes to the difficulties of training officers on the spur of the moment, but he suggests no definite solution of this vital problem. Yet one of the most pertinent lessons of the late campaign was the difficulty of obtaining officers to meet the largely increased requirements of a great war.

Reading between the lines of Mr. Balfour's speech, we cannot help thinking that the real issue is merely money. It is inevitable that, unless some very drastic measures are taken once again to starve the army, the normal estimates must increase. Even in those of the current financial year, which created such an outery, a considerable sum was saved in consequence of the calculated shortage of men in the army. The army reserve has since grown considerably; the new Militia reserve was then in its infancy; and the new Yeomanry is increasing. More-over during the next financial year we shall have to reckon with the new provisions as regards the extra 6d. a day which come into force in April next, possibly the long talked of rearmament of the Horse and Field Artillery. Thus even to get the estimates down to last year's figure will tax Mr. Arnold-Forster's ingenuity to the utmost. Yet the outcry against exse, as soon as Parliament meets, will be as loud as ever. Presumably then Mr. Balfour, with grim anticipation of the recurrence of painful scenes with the so-called army reformers, has determined to effect economy at the cost of home defence, and, possibly, of some of the new regular units recently raised. But by trimming the amount spent on home defence he may raise a hornets' nest about his head in the shape of the Volunteer influence in and out of Parliament—not to speak of the other auxiliaries—which may render Mr. Arnold-Forster's position more difficult and untenable even than Mr. Brodrick's. Moreover in the issue we very much doubt whether the cutting down of the newly-raised units, and a reliance on the patriotism of the people, will really make for true economy in the event of war. Patriotism requires a high rate of pay, as was seen in the case of yeomen at 5s. a day; and if some of the newly-raised battalions go, we may some day again have to resort to the costly expedient of raising Reserve regiments. It is possible that during the past two years we may have gone unnecessarily far in the direction of war preparations generally, particularly in the matter of home defence. But at present we fear the tendency is the other way; and against any undue or hasty reductions we most emphatically protest.

BRITISH INTERESTS ON THE PERSIAN GULF.

ORD CURZON'S visit to the Persian Gulf is the symptom of the present need to reassert our traditional policy that the geographical position of the Persian Gulf, on the immediate flank of our line of communications with India, Ceylon, Australasia and the Far East generally, makes it impossible for Great Britain to tolerate the establishment in those waters of any rival foreign Power. The capital sunk is great. It is owing to British effort, and at the

cost of British lives and treasure, in the past, that the Gulf is now comparatively free from piracy and open to the trade and shipping of the world. Though the overwhelming majority of this trade is still in British hands, and carried in British ships, other nations are now competing; and there was never a time when it was so necessary to watch events there with close attention. The Russian press—and it is to be remembered such expressions of opinion would not be permitted, by the rigid censorship, if they did not, in some degree, reflect the mind of the Russian Government—constantly refers to Russian aspirations towards the establishment of a Russian port in, or in the neighbourhood of, the Persian Gulf. Although any unbiassed visitor to the Persian Gulf will still be struck by the huge preponderance of British shipping and British trade, every effort is being made and every nerve strained to build up and foster a trade "connexion" by sea with Russia. No one can cavil at any nation pushing its own trade, in any part of the world, by every legitimate means in its power; but when such quasi-mercantile means are manifestly being employed to a political end, and fictitious "interests" are evidently being created with a view to their after use as bargaining material, it is well, and also interesting, to watch the process closely.

Some three or four years ago, a Russian trading ship was seen for the first time in the Persian Gulf. Her trial trip was far from being a commercial success; the goods she brought were disposed of with difficulty, at low prices, and she returned to Odessa almost empty. The loss was considerable, and the experiment could only be repeated with the financial assistance of the Russian Government. This was given with no niggard hand. A subsidy was granted, and the experiment was continued. Within the past year a definite agreement has been arrived at between the Russian Government and an Odessa steamship company, according to which, in return for a subsidy of £20,000 annually for the next twelve years, the company will build new ships specially adapted to local conditions, and will dispatch four such steamers every year from Odessa to Persian Gulf ports. Consular and commercial agents have been appointed at various places to study the demands and requirements of local markets, and to nurse the infant trade. So-called "museums", displaying samples of Russian goods and manufactures with full details as to price, quality, &c., have been established at various points for the dissemination of commercial information. Frequent opportunity has been found for Russian cruisers to patrol the Gulf, calling at various ports and exchanging civilities with the native rulers thereof. Recently a Russian and French cruiser made the tour of the Gulf in company; one may well imagine that the importance of the Franco-Russian alliance lost nothing in the telling, in the course of the conversations with local magnates. The Russian press has made no pretence of concealing its satisfaction that the appearance of Russian warships foreshadows the decline and fall of British influence and predominance.

Perhaps no one who has not passed some time in the East can fully appreciate the immense importance of prestige. English statesmen have appreciated as little as merchants the extent to which Asiatics are open to impressions received through the eye. Unlettered according to our Western standards, and without contemporary literature, the Asiatic has small chance of being able to appreciate anything he does not see, or feel, or anything which lies beyond the ken of his own immediate surroundings. What inference are the Arab tribes, inhabiting the coasts of the Persian Gulf, likely to draw from the object-lesson deliberately offered to them? In their fathers' time, nay in their own, down to within the last three or four years, the only ships of war ever seen were British ships, the only flag—the white ensign. Now they see the ships of other nations, and are quite acute enough to appreciate the size and guns and fighting tops of "show" ships, as compared with the more familiar British gunboat. The better classes are, no doubt, perfectly aware that the real naval strength of the foreigner, as compared with Great Britain, is not in direct proportion with the size of the individual ships which happen to visit this or that port,

but still it is hard to get away from the impression that the efforts, deliberately made, have not be

vain, and that British prestige has suffered.

No one is so well qualified to correct any such false mpression in the Arab mind as Lord Curzon. men, if any, have so intimate a knowledge of the history and the problems of the Middle East, and no one is more capable of dealing with them. In a private capacity he has visited and studied the countries In a private bordering on the Persian Gulf, and his books, though published some years ago, may still be described as the acknowledged text books on the subject. Some of the opinions he has expressed, as an individual author, are, opinions he has expressed, as an individual author, are, no doubt, far from palatable to foreign nations that would fain avail themselves of the Pax Britannica to push their own trade and to create more or less spurious "interests" in those waters. It is probable that this tour will be the signal for an outburst of Anglophobe misrepresentation in the Russian press; this, however, may be viewed with equanimity. Of the trade and other British interests connected with the Persian Gulf, a large proportion is British Indian. the Persian Gulf, a large proportion is British-Indian, and considerable colonies of British-Indian subjects are settled at most, if not all, of the ports to be visited by Lord Curzon. Moreover, among Eastern peoples, accustomed to patriarchal government, the personal element is an important factor. It is well, therefore, that those native rulers, such as the Sultan of Muscat, and the chiefs of Bahrein and Koweit, with whom we have special and intimate relations, should have an opportunity of seeing in the flesh and speaking to the Viceroy, representing His Britannic Majesty the Emperor of India.

THE COMMERCIAL CASE FOR CANADA.

WE have grown so accustomed to boast of the wonderful growth of the great Dominion during recent years that we should consider a madman any-one who proposed its cession to the United States. But when Peel declared for Free Trade in 1846, people quite expected that the annexation of the British North American Provinces to the States would follow. The enthusiastic speech delivered this week by Mr. Ross, Premier of Ontario, in defence of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, is as remarkable an answer as we have had to this complacent expectation. And yet when one considers the history of the relations between Great Britain and Canada during the last sixty years one can only wonder at this continued fidelity of the Dominion to the Imperial idea, and must doubt, if the country should now reject the chance of answering country should now reject the chance of answering Canadian zeal and compensating for long omissions, whether even Mr. Ross will maintain that opposition to annexation which he so strongly expressed this week. The Imperial Government in the past has acted perversely enough to drive Canada into the arms of her neighbours. In 1843 Canada had received for the first time a really useful preference for her grain and especially for her flour in the British market. This preference lasted just long enough to load Canada with debt, the cost of the mills, canals, &c., for which she had contracted on the faith of a British Act of Parliament, and then it was withdrawn in 1846. For very shame Sir Robert Peel had to concede fiscal autonomy to Canada when he had to concede fiscal autonomy to Canada when he repealed the Corn Laws, but neither that concession nor the abolition of the Navigation Acts could pay Canada's debts. Either to hasten or to postpone the annexation—the Ministry neither knew nor cared which—Lord Elgin in 1854 carried through the famous Reciprocity Treaty under which from 1855 to 1866 Canada found a free sale for her raw materials, especially her timber and fish, in the markets of the American Union. There were Montreal merchants and American manufacturers who pressed for an extension of the treaty so as to cover manufactured goods. Canada had few manufacturers and was generally quite willing, but the Imperial Government interposed a stern veto. Even the Cobdenite Ministry could not tamely endure differential duties upon British goods although it allowed Galt the Canadian Finance Minister. although it allowed Galt the Canadian Finance Minister to erect a quasi-protective tariff during the years follow-

It is not surprising that the American manufacturers ook exception to the treaty of 1855, and they and the New York shipping interest never rested till it was finally denounced at the end of the Civil War. Canada finally denounced at the end of the Civil War. Canada and the United Kingdom had "put their money on the wrong horse" and Canada had to pay—as usual. The Treaty of Washington in 1871 sacrificed Canada's interests to Anglo-American amity, and as the last shred of colonial preference went in 1860 there was nothing now, Americans thought, to prevent Canada "falling into their bosom like a ripe pear". The Morrill Tariff of 1861 was the real beginning of McKinleyism, and England was shortsighted enough to help her ripal's England was shortsighted enough to help her rival's development by lending money to build railways and to perfect the transport system generally. Nothing was known then of the Canadian North-West and our Cobdenite statesmen thought that the only means of ensuring a constant supply of wheat at any price was to substitute the American for the Russian wheatfield. Canada's answer to the denunciation of the Reciprocity Treaty was the foundation of the Dominion, but not until the half-breeds of Batoche in 1885 had suffered the fate of Riel's former band in Manitoba twenty-five years earlier that the Dominion in any real sense ex-Lord Strathcona drove the last spike into the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885, and bound the provinces together by a chain of steel, but west of Ontario population was scanty even for Canada. The present situation has been caused by the development Canadian North-West, and the key to that situation is the possession by Canada of the S. Lawrence River and the richest and largest wheatfields in the world. The United States were foiled in their attempt to occupy the Dominion's inheritance in 1870, but American states-men know that the inclusion within the Union of the great wheatfields of the North-West is of vital importance to American progress.

Although firebrands in the United States could have driven the Washington Government to accept the accomplished fact, had the Fenian raids been successful, yet the wiser heads among the American statesmen preferred to use less violent means. In other words, to every appeal by Canada for a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty came the reply non possumus, except on one condition, the inclusion of manufactures and consequently the establishment of a differential duty on British produce. Canada steadily refused this demand although it is doubtful whether the Imperial Government would have objected, and finding herself threatened with national bankruptcy under the so-called Revenue Tariff of 1874, she boldly adopted a high protective tariff five years later. The "National Policy" as it was called by its supporters was a declaration of war against the United States. It was never meant to exclude English manufactures, and as a matter of fact seldom did at first. Sir John Macdonald, its founder, was an ardent imperialist and intended the National Policy to be the basis of an Imperial Zollverein. negotiations with the Imperial Government for a reciprocity treaty on terms which he refused to the Americans, but the palmy days of the Eighty Club politician were not savourable to the Colonies. He was put off with the reply that as the Belgian and German Governments refused to relinquish their undoubted rights under the treaties of 1862 and 1865

nothing could be done.

The National Policy lasted in some measure till the death of Sir John Macdonald, but already in 1887 there were signs of the impending danger. victory had wrecked the Free-trade party in Canada, and a few of the extremists by 1887 were quite willing to accept any terms from the Americans. A movement for "commercial union", as it was called, sprang up, of this party were Professor Goldwin Smith and Erasmus Wiman. Their programme practically meant that Canada should adopt the United States' tariff on the whole. We can easily understand that the Ontario-farmers objected to paying high prices for their manu-factures, when they could not sell their own agricul-tural produce at a reasonable profit. They had two possible markets for their surplus, the United States and the British Isles. However a tariff of 25 cents per bushel is an effective protection for the American farmer,

while his transport advantages secured him superiority in the British market.

in the British market.

As a politician, Macdonald was unrivalled, and, partly by agreeing to negotiate with Washington, partly by appealing to Canadian loyalty, he won the election immediately preceding his death. Foiled in his attempt to filch Canada away from the Motherland by strategy Professor Goldwin Smith founded the continental union a few years later, to work for open annexation. By this time Sir Wilfrid Laurier the Imperialist had become leader of the Liberal party and all the more important Liberals professed his principles. The various colonial conferences and the Jubilee of 1887 had stirred men's emotions, and Laurier began to take up Macdonald's plan for reciprocity with the United Kingdom. It was evident to any impartial mind that the National Policy in Canada meant the exploitation of the farmers by the manufacturers, and Laurier saw that since 1890 the Canadian North-West had entered upon its prosperity at last. In a few more years thanks to the Canadian Pacific Railway there will be an enormous wheat crop seeking a market and all Canadian statesmen have determined that this market shall be found in the British Isles. To the North-West are flocking American farmers in ever-increasing numbers, and it is too much to expect them to be fired with loyalty for the British connexion when it penalises them in their nearest market.

Canadians of the East are as loyal to the flag as ever, but they cannot sacrifice their prosperity to us, nor should we desire it. Canadians of the West, American immigrants, can be made equally loyal. The rabid Republican does not exist among them, but the Yankee keenness for gain is if possible accentuated in men who have left their settled farms in Minnesota to act as pioneers again in the golden North-West. In a few more years the North-West will be the richest and most important part of the Dominion, and as in Canada democracy rules, we shall surely see in the near future, unless we give Canada a fair chance now as part of the Empire, first a commercial union and finally a political union between the two States in North America. So be it, says the Little Englander, if we still get our cheap loaf. But we shall not get our cheap loaf if this union takes place. We shall be shut out of yet another market by a tariff wall which McKinleyism can carry to any height desired, and the United States, their ancient wheat supply no longer sufficient, can draw upon the illimitable resources of the Canadian North-West.

This is Canada's case. For the sake of the Imperial idea she has withstood threats and blandishments alike. She has seen her trade with the United States rendered less profitable by the McKinley and Dingley Tariffs and now her hold upon the North-West is threatened by the new American invasion. Are we willing to develop our common inheritance in the Dominion, at the present cost maybe of a halfpenny rise on the 4lb. loaf, or shall we tell Canada to make what terms she can with the United States? If Canada goes, the rest of our empire will quickly follow, and we shall remain a nation of Free Importers, able to buy cheaply so long as our capital lasts, but totally unable to sell, cheaply or dearly, because the rest of the world has chosen a different system of economic organisation, which has enabled it to dispense with our services.

A JUDICIAL SELECTION. MR. JUSTICE KENNEDY.

I F Mr. Justice Kennedy were alone in supplying an instance of unfulfilled prophecies of distinction, we should hesitate to say that he does so; for his abilities, his scholarship, and distinguished gentlemanliness are well known. But it is a curious fact that there is quite a large group of Judges on the Bench to whom the remark is applicable from some cause or another and it is strange that they have mostly had something to do with the Probate, Admiralty and Divorce Division business—mostly in the way of shipping. Another noticeable thing is that they won more than ordinary distinction at their University; and were most of them appointed to the Bench either in 1891 or 1892. The

facts seem irrelevant to each other doubtless; but there they are. We will mention the names we are thinking of. There is the President of the Division named, the second Judge, Mr. Justice Phillimore, and Mr. Justice Kennedy. The Judges of 1892 appear to have been chosen because they were at a naturally vigorous period of life; and thus with the combination of academic distinction this particular set of judicial appointments seemed to be of remarkable promise. At the time when they were made one of the chronic discussions as to the retirement of Judges before they had reached advanced age was in full swing amongst lawyers. It was a favourite topic then, that of the bad policy of appointing men of mature years who, even if they did no more than earn their pensions, would be old before they retired; and if they continued, as they might insist on doing beyond that age would be quite fossilised. Lord Herschell was Lord Chancellor and was no doubt pleased to get credit for manning the Bench with men who, if they had not the virtues of their venerable predecessors, were not subject to the same kind of judicial vices or weaknesses. It might be well intended; but Lord Herschell's Judges have been from one cause and another a great disappointment and amongst the least effective of the judicial staff. In the case of Mr. Justice Gorell Barnes the cause has been ill-health. Partly this has been so with Sir Francis Jeune; partly, in common with Mr. Justice Kennedy and Mr. Justice Phillimore, who was however appointed later, the cause has disclosed itself as being the lack of the real substantial judicial character and ability or temperament. Instinctively, on looking at all three, one would say that their physical characteristics suggest their defects. Robustness, strength, solidity of opiniou, quiet self-confidence and self-command cannot be inferred from the very visible traits of the high-strung nervous organisation with which these Judges have been dowered; unfortunately without doubt if their destiny was to lead them o

physiology.

When Mr. Kennedy was made a Judge it was somewhat of a surprise to his professional brethren, for his career as an advocate had not been more than respectable. But there is nothing decisive in this fact; and there is even a sort of superstition at the Bar that the very gifted advocate inherits more or less of a disability when he goes to the Bench. The Bar has plenty of magnanimity too, and it was prepared to believe that there were hidden possibilities in a man with such a brilliant college career and who was then no more than forty-six years of age. What it was quite certain of, and it has been justified in its forecast, was that Mr. Kennedy would maintain the tradition of urbanity and courtesy which characterised his predecessor Mr. Justice Denman. The necessary qualification however must be made that Mr. Justice Kennedy never seems to have become sufficiently at ease on the Bench or to have done his work with mastery and apparent enjoyment of it; and this unfortunate fact must always mask the urbanity which is essentially as much a quality of Mr. Justice Kennedy's character as his courtesy. He has been industrious, very painstaking, and dignified in the sense that he has never displayed any vulgarities either of speech or action, or acted otherwise than as a well-bred man. These are qualities not to be estimated lightly in a Judge, some of whose colleagues talk a great deal of claptrap, play to the gallery, and pose in some way or other affectedly. Yet it cannot be denied that considering the circumstances of his appointment the subsequent history of his career on the Bench has not condoned it. One cannot get rid of a feeling that it was a political transaction intended to reward or console Mr. Kennedy for his good intentions but failure as a party politician. It is not fair that Lord Halsbury should alone get the discredit of having made political judicial promotions when Lord Herschell promoted Mr. Justice Kennedy. With the possible exception of Lord Davey nobody was ever more ineffectual in

As a Gladstonian Liberal he had fought twice unsuccessfully in 1885 and 1886 at Birkenhead; and he had a third similar experience at S. Helen's in the general election of 1892. Then he was made a Judge; nor was it probably a wholly irrelevant fact that he was a fellow-creuiteer of the Lord Chancellor. It is at any rate madoubted that his brilliant career as a graduate achieved at twenty-two, and his collapse as a politician led to the Bench. Perhaps we may regard as secondary causes Lord Herschell's friendship, and a secretaryship to Lord Goschen in 1870 and 1871 at the Local Government Board. However regretfully, it has to be admitted that Mr. Justice Kennedy was happier in his antecedents than he has been on the Bench; and to be confessed with disappointment that the plan of appointing younger men with a view to prevent stagnation in ideas of law reform has not been justified by events or by the acts of the special band on whom this hope rested. When the remaining four years have elapsed which shall entitle them to receive their pensions As a Gladstonian Liberal he had fought twice unsuccesselapsed which shall entitle them to receive their pensions they may quite conscientiously retire without feeling it necessary to stay on longer for the public benefit.

THE BOARD SCHOOL GIRL; A REPLY.

MY previous article on this subject has provoked My previous article on this subject has provoked widespread criticism, mostly unfavourable. I have been told that I "can know nothing of Board schools and what they teach there" [sic]; "that my details are inaccurate"; also that a "personal feeling underlies my indictment" because I "have had the misfortune to be prosecuted for non-compliance with the Education Act".

Now the question as to what sort of education we ought to give to our working girls is of such paramount national importance that the ignorance, partial inaccuracy, or ill-feeling of those who seek to change an existing system are trivial points provided that just cause can be shown for the advocated change. Still I may remind these critics first that as a late Inspector of Schools in India I have naturally seen something of English education since my return to England, that Board schools differ as the stars in glory, and that as one who for some years has habitually trained young girls for service I am necessarily well acquainted with the Board school product; secondly that I had "the misfortune" to gain my case!

With this I will pass on to the real point at issue—the proof State education for working girls. Now it

the proper State education for working girls. Now it is palpable that, except in the minds of pure Socialists, is palpable that, except in the minds of pure Socialists, the reason for State education for girls must differ from the reason for the State education of boys. That, according to politicians and educationists, is largely the beneficial effect to the State general which follows on good citizenship and an intelligent use of a vote. But this argument does not apply to girls. They have no vote; their influence can only be an indirect one, and therefore, so far as the State is concerned, the educational object is to make them good wives and mothers. This is a point which is seldom recognised, but it is one which, so long as sex is made an arbitrary disability, limits the extent to which public money can logically be spent on the education of girls, and narrows the field of such education to the making of women the field of such education to the making of women

who will indirectly influence voters for good. With this firm foothold let me go on to my critics. Now by far my most formidable opponent is Mrs. Homan, for twelve years member of the London school Homan, for twelve years member of the London school board and chairman of the Domestic Subjects sub-committee. If anyone should be an expert here is one; but unfortunately she as well as many others vitiates the value of her criticism by treating the question as if it only affected the Metropolitan area, and not the whole British Isles. That is a common habit nowadays on more subjects than education, and it is to a certain extent unavoidable seeing that London is the headquarters of so much—even representatives of the press! But it is a disastrous habit, and especially so here, for I am quite willing to admit (what I, of course, knew before) that in London Board schools girls are given some two or even three hours' schools girls are given some two or even three hours' domestic training once a week. I also concede that

this lavish outlay of time, which actually totals up to about three weeks in all, is better than nothing to girls whose homes—in that horrible product of Christian civilisation, London in its mean streets—hold out no

hope of any other training.

But what about the thousands of village schools? the tens of thousands of country-town scholars whose homes are emphatically unlike Mrs. Homan's description of the Metropolitan area? By far the greater number of village and country-town homes are healthy, housewifely, happy, and it is in exchange for the training of these (at the most critical time in the life of that future wife and mother which the State scales. training of these (at the most critical time in the life of that future wife and mother which the State seeks to educate to these duties) that a young girl is given two hours a week of unreal class work! If, indeed, she gets so much. As a matter of fact few small schools can afford technical teachers beyond the time-honoured sewing mistress; and if they can, we have to consider the difference between a Metropolitan special centre, with its highly-trained supervision, its intelligent attempt to assimilate its environment with the actuali-ties of future work in the home and, let us say, the gas stove and elaborate "batterie de cuisine" which travels about with an itinerant cookery teacher. Surely no one who has seen these irrelevantly dumped down in a class-room, only to disappear "like the base-less fabric of a vision" after a few brief hours, can

less fabric of a vision" after a few brief hours, can believe in their value as permanent and solid training? I do not blame such teaching as inefficient. I have absolutely no quarrel with State schools. They undoubtedly do what they can, but it is no more possible to teach domesticity out of the domestic environment than it is to teach agriculture out of the agricultural environment. The State schools have admitted the latter. They have retired from the field and the formulation of admitted the latter. They have retired from the field and the farmyard by exempting agricultural boys from school after eleven years of age. My conviction is that girls who have domestic tastes should be similarly exempted at the age of twelve at latest.

I will only give one detail in support of my view that, even if longer hours are given to domestic subjects in school, the result must of necessity be unsatisfactory. It is this. Laundry work is in my experience the refuge of all training homes. The girls I get from such homes of all training homes. The girls I get from such homes certainly have acquired some real grip on this branch of domestic work. It is also, I see by statistics, "very satisfactory" in schools. Why? Because the washtub in cottage, castle, or class-room has its own unchanging environment. The only thing necessary for unlimited learning is a full buck-basket! And that is easily compassed in these days when—metaphorically or otherwise—dirty clothes are seldom washed at home!

With cookery it is different. I once saw twenty Board-school girls making one toad-in-the-hole; though I confess that, as an innocent treat on the sly, the teacher had allowed them to attempt meringues. I have tried had allowed them to attempt meringues. giving cookery classes myself, but I soon found out that without a public restaurant in the back kitchen (which was inadvisable) I really could not give honest cookery work to more than three girls: the rest was doll's dinner play, of no more value than the intelligent reading of a recipe in a cookery book, which surely any girl who has been six full years at school should be able to do. Briefly it is the habit of honest work which we have to teach. Once that is learnt it can be applied either to a twopenny dinner or a Lord Mayor's feast. In Mrs. Homan's next criticism the Metropolitan area

crops up again. Undoubtedly, given the horrible homes she describes, the girls will in any case run about the she describes, the girls will in any case run about the streets in the evenings with the boys. As undoubtedly, in the Christian civilisation aforesaid, things far less admirable than a healthy airy school must be an "influence for good". But what again of my villages and country towns? Here but for the inevitable gathering together of the whole adolescent population not only in school but in the long journeyings to and from school there would practically be no temptation to "gang with the girls and lark with the lads" and so the craving for the excitement of some sort of society, the intolerance of self-sustained life which is so marked a feature of the young nowadays, would not be fostered as it is. fostered as it is.

Even if this is not admitted, none can deny that

undesirable habits may be formed. In this mountain parish for instance, it is almost dark in winter before lads and lasses of fourteen or more start homewards for a walk of two or three miles together. There is probably no harm in it now, but by and bye will not this habit make it easier for a girl to be a night walker and harder to be a domestic stay-at-home? In this connexion my critic in one and the same breath asserts that "I must have forgotten that girls leave school at four-teen" and that working-class "children are older for their age than those of the leisured classes". Now, surely for purposes of criticism these two propositions are mutually destructive. I only mention them therefore in order to point out that though it is true that the "being brought earlier into contact with the realities of life" ages the mind, it does not seem, according to medical statistics, to have that effect on bodily development. Quite the contrary, so that the want of adjustment between the precocity of the mind, and physical development makes those two years of a working-girl's life from twelve to fourteen peculiarly critical.

life from twelve to fourteen peculiarly critical.

Regarding the real reason for the admitted dislike to domestic service shown by the Board-school girl, two arguments have been adduced by experts—the difficulty of procuring an outfit, and the natural desire for immediate remuneration. In reference to the latter it seems to me that its immediate remuneration is just the great point in service. Compare it with shop life. An errand girl I am told on inquiry often has to pay a premium and seldom gets more than 2s. 6d. a week without food for a year at least. A decently trained girl of the same age entering service at once receives four to five shillings, food, lodging, washing—in other words fifteen or sixteen shillings a week paid monthly; that is far more than a lad of the same age could earn.

Remembering this, let us turn to the outfit question.

Remembering this, let us turn to the outfit question. To begin with, no girl who has been attending a State school up to date can surely be absolutely destitute of clothing. In the old days when, looking down the lines of a National school you saw nothing but print dresses, a careful mother who could run tucks provided for possible service during the last year or so of school. And though prints are unfortunately out of fashion, still none but the absolutely destitute, untrained (and therefore unfit for service) are without any clothes at all! They will not of course have the tucked and frilled under-garments, horrible in cheap tawdriness, which servants affect nowadays, but solid unbleached calico or threepence a yard pink flannelette wears well and is as clean as cambric. If the girl has really learnt to make more than one chemise a year (as one critic seeks to prove by asserting that "between two and three hundred garments" were made in a "very large school", whose number he omits to give) the sewing of such stuffs could well be done at school. For the rest, I would engage to fit any girl of decent parentage out for her first place as between-maid for £1; that is for the sum which she would receive at the end of the first month. That first month would doubtless be a trifle hard. She might have to wash one apron while wearing the other, and she could not at once aspire to a tin bonnet-box; but a sailor hat does not need the one, and the laundry training at the school would come in useful for the other. At the worst, an immediate steady income of £12 a year is surely something which can be calculated beforehand? Thus I cannot read into the growing distaste to domesticity any other meaning than that which I have assigned to it—namely, the antagonistic atmosphere of our present educational system. Perhaps this antagonism is intentional, and to those who assert

Thus I cannot read into the growing distaste to domesticity any other meaning than that which I have assigned to it—namely, the antagonistic atmosphere of our present educational system. Perhaps this antagonism is intentional, and to those who assert roundly "that a woman who can teach elemental arithmetic is a better woman than the woman who sweeps" I can say nothing. To those who recognise the present state of affairs as a national calamity I would point out that a similar antagonism has been allowed for by educationists in the case of agriculture. Surely therefore it is not too much to ask that with similar care and restrictions exemption may be made, in country districts anyhow, for girls over twelve whose parents are either able to find a paid place for them or are themselves capable of employing them wisely at home.

F. A. STEEL.

WHEN ADAM DELVED.

WHEN I settled down to reading Mr. Tod's book*
I had spent a long afternoon tramping round a large farm in the West Midlands: for something over a month there had not been two consecutive fine days, and though the rain had ceased a cold clinging mist enveloped the fields, the water stood in the furrows, the soil, by no means of the heaviest, was still so saturated that the prospects of getting the land ready for wheat seemed remote enough. All farming is a matter of faith, but it required a bountiful measure of that virtue, even in the pipe and armchair mood begotten of tea and a bright fire, to accept with any conviction the lyrical praises of a farmer's life with which Mr. Tod's by ages open. And yet Mr. Tod is right; for the average Englishman there is no pursuit in the world that will yield; the same continuous pleasure as the farmer's; even in mid-November after the past dismal season the land has its charms. Consciously or not the the land has its charms. Consciously or not the shining lines of the plough furrows which reveal the soft curves of the rolling land, the homeward flight of the rooks, the distant bleat of the sheep on the uplands, soothe and invigorate; black care may be waiting at home neatly bound in the parchment of a pass-book, but once on the land even bad seasons and falling prices cannot persuade one that farming is not man's rightful avocation, more than any other in harmony with the eternal purpose of the universe. The ordinary Englishman likes to be a-doing, with a farm he shall never want for occupation, the best manure is the tread of the master's foot, the best medicine for his stock the constant presence the best medicine for his stock the constant presence of the master's eye; he has too a creative instinct, and what can more agreeably flatter it than the tender lines of the springing wheat or the sleek sides of a lot of well-fed bullocks. It is fortunate indeed for English farming that this instinctive love of the land lies deep in most men's hearts; nothing else will bring new men and new capital to our depleted acres; it is not as a business but as a life that agriculture offers any attractions, it will require intelligence and steady work to obtain a moderate return on the money invested, and the farmer's reward must be sought in peace, health, and length of days rather than in any accumulation of wealth. For farming is a primitive industry and as such fares but poorly in this highly-civilised country; it cannot get beyond its poor one crop a year and how shall it compete for men or money with manufactures which can be speeded up almost indefinitely? Moreover it has rates and taxes to bear, and the country is so small that the expenditure on education, sanitation, the roads, the care of the poor, are all strung up to an urban basis, very different poor, are all strung up to an urban basis, very different from the conditions which content our competitors; whereas what should be the equalising factor—the cost of freight to our markets—is almost inoperative. I have just been looking over the summarised accounts of a large farm for the past twenty-five years worked out to show expenditure and returns per acre; rent has fallen, rates rose steadily until the remission a few years back, but that fall has been almost recovered and a new maximum will be reached when the charges for education come into force, manual labour has risen though there are fewer men on the farm, miscellaneous expenses have risen a trifle. Of remunerative expendicreased to bring about the greater output of the farm; on the credit side live stock have increased but the profit per head is much less, it has only been a change to more remunerative special cross and the calculations. to more remunerative special crops and the sale of others usually retained on the farm which have kept the farm on a paying basis. Well managed as the farm has been the net results are not such as would tempt a capitalist to embark his money in it as a business proposition, it is only on the basis of Mr. Tod's view of the essential delightfulness of farming that English acres will draw new men to their cultivation.

Mr. Tod's book is not a treatise on agriculture but rather a general survey of the conduct of a farm; while he is not sparing of details when they are necessary to elucidate his point, in the main he attempts to get the

^{* &}quot;Farming." By W. M. Tod. (Haddon Hall Library.) London Dent. 1903. 7s. 6d.

cultivator, actual or prospective, to look at his work from a wider standpoint and consider the general tendency of his scheme of operations. It is just for want of this general view that many farms are unprofitable: the farmer does not quite know what he would be at, he has not thought out the system most likely to suit himself, his land and his markets, he continues branches of his business which he is half persuaded do branches of his business which he is half persuaded do not pay instead of concentrating his whole energies in a definite direction. In this main object Mr. Tod seems to me successful, his book is lucid and readable, he discusses in succession the character of the soil and the effect upon it of cultivation and manuring, the various crops and the management of the live-stock, in a sound but suggestive manner. Mr. Tod's personal experience of farming is a guarantee that he will not be led away by any stray wind of new doctrine: at the same time he is not wedded to the old routine but sees clearly enough that the successful British farming of to-day has readjusted itself to an entirely changed set of conditions. justed itself to an entirely changed set of conditions. Naturally enough there are points where his readers will not agree with Mr. Tod, practices recommended of which other men would disapprove, for good farming is so much a matter of adaptation to particular circumstances of soil and climate that no custom can be universally correct: but even where the practical reader may not see eye to eye with the author he will do well to ask himself if he can justify his own position. Some men for example will differ when Mr. Tod denounces the cake and corn bill as the great source of loss, and many a fine north-country farm lives by the meat, barley and potatoes which are grown almost wholly by the aid of purchased feeding stuffs. But all the same the cases are numerous where men are keeping stock solely to make farmyard manure, the animals barely pay the cake bill, and if the labour involved, the roots and the straw, the interest on the capital sunk, were also taken into account, it would be seen how much more profitably the process of dung-making could be replaced by the purchase of suitable manure. Just in the same way Mr. Tod argues for a reduction in the area devoted to swedes, advice which is probably true for the south and east of England but hardly correct for the north country and Scotland. Mr. Tod again argues very strongly for the abolition of all covenants restricting freedom of cropping and the sale of hay or straw, on the principle that the man who is selling much will be too deeply interested in obtaining big crops to allow the fertility of his farm to decline either by defective cultivation or want of manure. Unfortunately this ignores the existence of tenants who live by moving from farm to farm and successively "skinning" the unhappy land which falls into their hands, but where there is a good which falls into their hands, but where there is a good agent or a landlord understanding his business—who can pick his tenants a little and promptly shunt any man pursuing a wasteful system—freedom of cropping is undoubtedly the method to secure an enlightened and profitable management. But we are badly in want of more landlords capable of appreciating modern methods of farming. Even those who take an interest in agriculture are often more conservative than their in agriculture are often more conservative than their tenants, and from want of knowledge prefer the safe if small and declining rental obtained by the old ways rather than run any risks with a man whose practices they cannot understand. For this reason I should like to see Mr. Tod's book in the hands of every young landowner. landowner. I know no modern book more calculated to attract him to the study of agriculture or more suggestive of the power that would accrue from a fuller knowledge of the art and science of farming. It is not only that the landowner may be required to farm him-self, but that, if he is to continue to draw rent, he must be able to criticise and on occasion to inspire his tenants, which means that he must educate himself in

some respects beyond them.

Why did not Mr. Tod include in his book some survey of the agricultural literature that is worth reading? There are many false prophets and blind guides, but there is also much English writing, both old and new, which is only unappreciated because the general reader interested in agriculture, just the class likely to be drawn to Mr. Tod's work, does not know of its

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Again I should have liked Mr. Tod's last chapter "Will it Pay?" to go into some vital detail, giving facts as to the capital required to embark in a few typical farms and the annual return which can fairly be expected at the present time. Mr. Tod is an optimist, perhaps not unduly so, but his optimism would be more effective with some figures behind it.

Finally I would recommend the book to any young man who is thinking of taking up farming; he will get an idea of the kind of work that will be necessary if he is to make a living, and of the qualities that will be called for in himself—intelligence, persistence, a faculty for buying and selling, and above all—determination. In a season like the past the difference between success and a heavy loss has often depended upon seizing the one available occasion and resolutely forcing a piece of work through. forcing a piece of work through.

DEBUTS: IN THE LATIN QUARTER.

FOR weeks, for months, even for years, have we been dreaming of our début: we of the Centre, we of Normandy and Brittany, we of the South, we of innumerable Provincial Towns. How we have read the "Vie de Bohème", and how, in our walks, have we thought out a costume, a plan of campaign that shall immediately establish us as wits and originals on the mmediately establish us as wits and originals of the Rive Gauche! Imperative that we shall create an impression on the very first night. But how, O how, shall we be amazing? What new, brand-new folly can we commit? Let us walk again across the fields, to reflect. Let us walk and walk until we have hit upon some brilliant phrase, some surprising feat that will win us undying fame, which—O ecstasy!—will draw from Paul the Elder, Paul the Incomparable, the intoxicating tribute, "Très bien, très bien. Mais il a de l'esprit, ce petit-là. Il ira loin. Un début admirable, un début qui a bien réussi". The faithful old servant (who has nursed us), remarking our preoccupation, asks, "What is the matter? Tell your old nounou". Our "What is the matter? Tell your old nounou". Our genial father, understanding our emotion, is infinitely amused: "Monsieur pense à son début: il ne faut pas déranger monsieur", he scoffs. Our anxious mother pleads, "Tu seras sage et raisonnable, n'est-ce pas, mon petit Paul chéri?" Nearer and nearer draws the day of our departure. Have we a phrase, a feat? Across the fields once more. At the window far into the night. Mild, the débutante's agitation over her first ball-dress to our agitation over cordurovs. long flowing the night. Mild, the débutante's agitation over her first ball-dress to our agitation over corduroys, long flowing cloaks, great felt hats—those dear sombreros. We are eighteen, nineteen, or twenty. We are to become painters, doctors, or lawyers. Says our father, "Amuse-toi bien, mais ne fais pas de bêtises". On the last night of all he recalls his début in the Quarter, his early studies and early follies. Advice and warnings. "Te voilà homme, mon petit. Fais ton devoir. Embrasse moi. Là! Et maintenant, va voir ta mère." But, let us pass over our farewell interviews, and the adieux at the station. A long journey, and so much the better; for, in spite of the joys and triumphs to come, we have a lump in our throat, and are by no to come, we have a lump in our throat, and are by no means looking our best, and need an hour or two's solitude in which to recover. Better, now. Excited, when the chimneys of S. Denis come in view. Let us rehearse the phrase, the feat. Shortly, very shortly, it

rehearse the phrase, the feat. Shorty, the behoves us to be amazing.

Says the old boy to the new boy, "What's your name? What does your father do? Have you any sisters?" Rather rude this, of the old boy; how much gentler, how much friendlier is Paul the Elder, Paul the Incomparable, and those other Elders, Gaston and Xavier and Aimery and Pierre! Regularly at this season they have this duty to perform: reveal to the Youngers the charms of Murger's Land. And this they undertake at their own cost. And this they roungers the charms of Murger's Land. And this they undertake at their own cost. And this they accomplish skilfully and tactfully. And this they regard as a tremendous ceremony. "Mimi", says Paul, "be gentle with this Jeunesse, for the Jeunesse has just left its sisters, and been embraced by its old faithful nurses, and so is shy". In the Taverne Lorraine is Paul, and to the Taverne Lorraine is to come the Jeunesse of the Centre, Normandy, Brittany, the extreme South, and the innumerable Provincial. Towns. "They are late", observes Mdlle. Mimi. "Of course", replies Paul, "they are late. They are making themselves beautiful. No doubt their new clothes embarrass them". Begins Gaston—"I remember when I—". But he is interrupted with cries of "No reminiscences, no history", and is reminded that this is not the day of the Old, but of the Young. However, no Youngers. Perhaps the Youngers are struggling with the flowing tie, perhaps the Youngers are arranging the folds of the long cloak, perhaps—. Gascony! And then the extreme South, and next Brittany and Normandy and the Provincial Towns. Advance, come hither, Youngers. Blush not under the gaze of all hither, Youngers. Blush not under the gaze of all these eyes, for they are kindly, indulgent eyes. Mount these eyes, for they are kindly, indulgent eyes. Mount the staircase and proceed into the gallery, where the Elders await you; and please leave your cloaks alone, and for heaven's sake give up trifling with your dear sombreros. How shall you salute, and are you to shake hands all round? Dear Incomparable Paul, you shake hands all round? Dear Incomparable Paul, you save the situation! You are free and easy, and so are all the Elders. You order bock; you cry "Let us seat qurselves"; you say "This is Mdlle. Mimi" and "That is Mdlle. Margot"; and Murger's daughters smile upon the Youngers. More Gascony, and belated representatives of Brittany and Normandy. Scores and scores of Youngers. Save Paul (Heat tolle)" Youngers. Says Paul, "Let us talk". But the phrase, the feat?

Ah me, what of the phrase and feat? Now, if ever. Ah me, what of the phrase and feat? Now, if ever, is the moment to be amazing, and win intoxicating tributes from the Elders. Now is the time to gain a brilliant reputation in the Latin Quarter. Speak, Gascony. Act, Brittany. Out with it, through with it—we wait, we wait! However, no phrase, no feat. Instead, concern for the cloaks, for the dear sombreros; and so Paul praises the cloaks and admires the sombreros, and continues, "Ils vous vont très bien. Et puis, vous les portez très couvenablement". Nervous light laughs of acknowledgment from the Youngers. Also, whispering among the Youngers. But when the band strikes up, and when the fourth bock has been consumed then does the Leuresse become more animated. sumed, then does the Jeunesse become more animated. "Alphonse, Joseph, Henri", cries Paul to the waiters, "come here to be introduced to your new clients". Grins from the garçons, who are curiously inspected by the Centre, by Normandy, Brittany, the extreme South, and the Provincial Towns. "The pourboire", explains Paul, "is ten centimes. Of course, it varies. Beware of Henri, who has bad five-franc pieces. Beware, also, of Alphones, who drinks one's book on the staircase. As of Alphonse, who drinks one's bock on the staircase. As for Joseph, he is in love and inoffensive". Gascony speaks—yes, Gascony actually addresses Joseph, saying, "All my sympathy". And Paul, turning to Joseph, observes, "Rejoice, my dear Joseph. You have Monsieur's sympathy". Then, the flower-woman. "No doubt", says Paul, "you will have need of flowers later on. This is Madame Dubois. Prices: flowers later on. This is Madame Dubois. Prices: fifty centimes for a large bunch of violets". And Madame Dubois promises to be a mother to the Youngers, whereupon the Youngers wince. Also, the nut man and the negro with nougat. "Luxuries," explains Paul, "for the ladies of the Quarter". Shall a Younger present Mdlle. Mimi with a stick of nougat? Shall he, O shall he—or would Paul call him to order? Valiant Breton, who buys nougat; but timid Breton, who have the nougat on the tall. but timid Breton, who lays the nougat on the table, eyes Paul, eyes Mdlle. Mimi. And admirable, Incomparable Paul who understands: who says: "Do you dream, Mimi? No doubt you are thinking of your dear Paul, but our camarade here would offer you a stick of nougat." stick of nougat.

Now are the faces of the Youngers flushed, and their spirits high. The band plays the Marche Lorraine—and the Centre, Normandy, Brittany, the extreme South, and the Provincial Towns burst out into song. Paul nudges Mdlle. Mimi, laughs. The other Elders are infinitely amused—but a hush falls upon the company when a very young provincial timidly approaches and excuses himself for being late. He lost his way: he has wandered and wandered. He has been into other cafés. He has also been into a grocer's, where he bought a bottle of champagne. A peace offering, for being late. And Paul is touched; Paul is also chivalrous—never suggests that grocer's champagne should not be brought into the Taverne

Lorraine. Considerate Paul, who decides that the champagne shall be quaffed from liqueur glasses—the quantity being limited, he adds. So, twenty-five liqueur glasses. Sweet, almost still champagne, but Paul pronounces it "exquis". Then, many a Younger would provide champagne—but Paul the Incomparable reminds them all the drink of the Quarter is bock and that to-night the Youngers are guests. Heavens, a Younger insists! Mercy, he calls again and again for Joseph! And then—O then—Paul crushes him. In the Younger's dear sombrero is a feather, a bright feather, which the Younger no doubt thought original and gay. But Paul fixes that feather sternly with his eye. Paul objects to the presence of the feather. And and gay. But Paul fixes that feather sternly with his eye. Paul objects to the presence of the feather, And raising his voice Paul concludes: "A parrot is an admirable bird . . . in its proper place." Humiliated and confused is our Younger. Removing the feather from his dear sombrero, he throws it on the floor. Alas, alas—perhaps that feather was his feat.

En route! ... The cafés Soufflot, Vachette, Source,

En route! ... The cafés Soufflot, Vachette, Source, and d'Harcourt; and in each of them, introductions; in each of them a bock. Brittany tells Mdlle. Mimi that he has already seen a lot of life. Often he feels blase. Yes, Brittany who has always been in bed before midnight! Says Mdlle. Mimi, "Yes, I myself perceived that you had the air of a man who has lived". Brittany, whose countenance is wondrous fresh! But when Brittany hints at having been the hero of many an affaire de cœur, then Mdlle. Mimi can contain herself no longer: laughs and laughs. Song from the South. no longer: laughs and laughs. Song from the South, and a speech from the Centre, incoherent but applauded. Gloom in the Gascony contingent: it is hot, extraordinarily hot; even the bock is hot; so many a Gascon narily hot; even the bock is hot; so many a Gascori cools himself outside, to the amusement of a policeman and joy of a gamin who cries, "What a head, mon Dieu, what a head!" As for the Provincial Towns, they have taken to rejoicing on their own account. Thus—Rouen is at one end of the Boul' Mich' and Amiens at the other, and Paul, missing them and then hearing where they are, is infinitely amused. "They would show their independence", he laughs. "They would amaze us with their savoir vivre". Three representatives of Lyons are lost, but it is rumoured that sentatives of Lyons are lost, but it is rumoured that they are executing local dances before the habitues of the Pantheon cafe; while Lille was last seen making a wreath of violets for his dear sombrero. Here, there, and everywhere, the Youngers. Murger's daughters are plied with flowers, nuts, and nougat; must listen to the wildest compliments, must hear for the hundredth time that the Youngers have been the heroes of intime that the Youngers have been the heroes of innumerable dramatic passionate affairs. But Murger's
daughters are patient, and the Elders are indulgent;
indeed, Paul bids Mdlle. Mimi embrace the South
when, in recalling his parting with a lady whom, out
of quite unnecessary discretion, he persistently calls
Madame X., the South breaks down and cries. "A
tragedy, a veritable tragedy", wails the South. However, when the cafés close, the South has so far
recovered as to serenade the servant in Madame
Bertrand's hospitable milk-shop. Now, coffee or
chocolate or milk for the Youngers. Also, sandwiches
for the Youngers. Then, at three in the morning, the
Youngers are persuaded to disperse.

"Ils sont gentils", says Paul affectionately, as he
and the Elders watch Normandy, Brittany, the Centre,
the Provincial Towns, and the South disappear none too
steadily up the Boul' Mich'.

JOHN F. MACDONALD,

JOHN F. MACDONALD.

"THE LOWER DEPTHS."

AST week I wrote harshly about the English AST week I wrote harshly about the Engish people's contempt for the things of the mind. But I think I prefer that stolid contempt to the gushing superficial curiosity evinced in certain little private circles. The attitude which may be called "the literary tea-party attitude" seems to me of all attitudes th most dreadful. I will examine it for you—a painful duty—as soon as the season of good will is past. I am sure that in recent months the properest topic of conversation at literary tea-parties, or rather the property conversation at literary tea-parties, or rather the pro-perest means of initiating those brief and frantic little conversations into which the guests at literary tea-parties plunge as though they had something worth saying,

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and as though there were something worth hearing, has been Maxim Gorki. Gorki! I hear the tinkling of those tea-spoons. I catch the echoes of those fatuously earnest questions, those fatuously playful answers. Gorki, Gorki! But never for long do these initiatory Gorki, Gorki! But never for long do these initiatory topics reign supreme. They come and go, yielding place to others, very quickly. Sharp's the word, in that flighty and fickle kingdom. Gorki, I wager is gone already. The last, so far as literary tea-parties are concerned, was heard of him at the beginning of this week, when the Stage Society produced "The Lower Depths". The attendants at literary tea-parties are not, as a rule, readers of books. Reviews of books not, as a rule, readers of books. Reviews of books are more to their taste. But they do, one and all of them, attend the productions of the Stage Society. And the dose administered on Sunday evening and on Monday afternoon will have sufficed to purge their minds of Gorkism. I strain my ears to catch the succeeding topic. I am sure there is one.

To no habitual reader of these articles need I explain that I am all for relaying the girths of modern down.

that I am all for relaxing the girths of modern drama. The modern technique is much too tight, in my opinion. The difficulty of writing a technically good play is such that the best men prefer other modes of self-expression, and the task of play-writing falls mostly to duffers who, having nothing to express, have time and patience to master the needful (but not essentially needful) little tricks. Any sign, therefore, of a movement towards looser form is always sped very heartily by me. But looseness of form is one thing, formlessness is another. looser form is always sped very heartily by me. But looseness of form is one thing, formlessness is another. Such devices as prologues, and epilogues, and scenes of mere conversation, are all quite defensible, quite commendable. But the line must be drawn somewhere, and drawn a long way before we come down to "The Lower Depths" of Gorki. There must be some kind of artistic unity—unity either of story or of idea. There must be a story, though it need not be stuck to like grim death; or there must be, with similar reservation, an idea. Gorki has neither asset. At any rate he does nothing with either asset. Enough that he gives us, honestly and fearlessly, "a slice of life"? Enough, certainly, if he did anything of the kind. But he doesn't. "The Lower Depths" is no "slice". It is chunks, hunks, shreds and gobbets, clawed off anyhow, chucked at us anyhow. "No thank you" is the only possible reception for such work. We are not at all squeamish. But we demand of the playwright who deals with ugly things, just as we demand of the playwright who deals with pretty things, something more than the sight of his subject-matter. Mere gall is no better than mere sugar. It is worse. Mere sugar is not disgusting. Nor is gall disgusting if it be rightly prepared. In other words, horrible subject-matter ceases to be horrible when it is treated by a fine artist. The subject-matter of a tragedies are horrible. These are the bad tragedies, ungraced by any beauty or nobility of treatment, or ungraced by an idea, and so meaning bad tragedies, ungraced by any beauty or nobility of treatment, or ungraced by an idea, and so meaning nothing, leading nowhither, merely affronting us with nothing, leading nowhither, merely affronting us with their own horrors. Æsthetic pain or pleasure depends not at all on the artist's material: it does depend, entirely, on the artist. A convenient proof of this law may be made through comparison of "The Lower Depths" with another foreign play, "The Good Hope", which the Stage Society produced in its past season. Heijermans, its author, had taken a not less ghastly theme than Gorki's. Fisher-folk doomed to starve or to sacrifice their lives for the enrichment of an unscrupulous shipnowner are not the enrichment of an unscrupulous shipowner are not less ghastly a theme than are drink-sodden wastrels in less ghastiy a theme than are drink-souden wasters in a "night refuge". But Heijermans had an idea, and this idea he expressed, very beautifully, through a coherent story. He evoked, through art, a sense of pity and awe; and so he sent us away happy, despite our very real indignation that in real life such things should he. I would willingly subscribe something to should be. I would willingly subscribe something to any "fund for the amelioration of the condition of Dutch fishermen". But, also, I cherish the memory of a delightful afternoon. On the other hand, no "fund for the amelioration of the condition of wastrels in Moscow" would extract from me a brass farthing. I am not interested in them. I may become so, in the future. I shall become so, if some Russian artist arise and

handle well the theme which Gorki has botched. If ever I meet Gorki, who is said to be an impressive person in real life, or if ever I read one of his books, which are said to be impressive, I shall be awakened doubtless, to a quick sympathy with Russian wastrels. But Gorki on the stage is merely a bore, and a disgusting bore. I dare say the characters in "The Lower Depths" are closely observed from life. But so are the figures in the lower depths of Madame Tussaud's quaint establishment. I defy you to leave the Chamber of Horrors a wiser and a better man, or a man conscious of an æsthetic impression. Where there is no scious of an æsthetic impression. Where there is no scious of an æsthetic impression. handle well the theme which Gorki has botched. If ever scious of an æsthetic impression. Where there is no meaning, no unity, nothing but bald and unseemly horror, you must needs be merely disgusted and meaning, no unity, nothing but bald and unseemly horror, you must needs be merely disgusted and anxious to change the subject. It is just possible, as I have hinted, that Gorki may have meant to express some sort of an idea. Let us credit him with having meant to express a very noble idea. But that idea is not enubilable from the muzzy maunderings of the wastrels. They maunder muzzily on, these wastrels, just as they would in real life; but no ray is cast from without on their darkness. There is an old man, who appears suddenly, and in whom we dimly description. who appears suddenly, and in whom we dimly descry a "raisonneur". But he disappears, not less suddenly, a "raisonneur". But he disappears, not less suddenly, leaving behind him no lesson except a vague sentimental optimism. This lack of any underlying idea would not matter if there were any narrative unity. An artist has the right to tell a story without any criticism of its meaning. The story itself produces that artistic unity which, if there is no story, can be produced only by an underlying idea. But Gorki as story-teller is not less far to seek than Gorki as thinker. Two or three clumsy little bits of a story are wedged in here and there. But they have nothing to do with the

I wonder why the committee of the Stage Society had anything to do with it? To change the subject had anything to do with it? To change the subject for literary tea-parties is hardly a great enough need to justify so difficult a production. Yet on no merely esthetic ground could the thing have been deemed worth while. Snap-shot photographs are all very well in their way. But one keeps them in an album. One does not put them together into a large gilt frame. Such a frame one uses only for a large single painting. Gorki's work is to dramaturgy as snap-shot photographs are to the art of painting; and a proscenium (literally a gold frame) deserves something better than the misuse of being made to nullify such value as such

work may have.

If you are bent on doing that which ought not to be done at all, you should at least have the grace to do it badly. The committee of the Stage Society had made not even this concession. An admirable company of mimes had been levied. By the mysterious force of personality, which one values in a mime so much more highly than all the perfections of artistic skill, Mr. James Welch stood, figuratively, head and shoulders above all the rest. He impersonated the old man whom I have mentioned, and I dare say that such significance as one descried in the part was due to him and his haunting voice, not to Gorki. to him and his haunting voice, not to Gorki. Miss Haidée Wright impersonated a dying girl. To stage death-beds one nearly always applies the criticism that Charles II. applied to his own. It is so difficult for a mime to die polytonously without being unnatural. Much credit is due to Miss Wright for striking the proper mean—for being neither monotonous nor unreal. Mrs. Cecil Raleigh impersonated a virago. Perhaps because, accustomed to act on a much larger stage, she over estimated the change of key necessary in this other venue, or perhaps because nearly everyone else in the play had to be maudlin and mumbling, and so struck a keynote which she was loth to violate and so struck a keynote which she was loth to violate obtrusively, she was not viragoesque enough. More noise was needed. After Mr. Welch's, the most salient performance was that of Mr. Nicholas Holthoir, whose name is unfamiliar to me. He impersonated a dégringolé Baron, very weak and sinister and silly. Especially in the last act, where this Baron tries to account for his failure in life, and fails in that too, clutching vainly at the poor thread of thought that is somewhere in his brain, Mr. Holthoir acted with a truly fine sense of the grotesque-niteous. with a truly fine sense of the grotesque-piteous.

MAX BEERBOHM.

THE CITY.

WITH the exception of Home Rails, which have been lifeless, the tone of business on the Stock W been lifeless, the tone of business on the Stock Exchange has been good during the past week. Consols have risen slightly, owing, it is understood, to genuine investment purchases by small buyers. The American railway market was quite good on Thursday, though the British public is not doing much in this or any other market. Argentine rails have been really strong, Rosario Consolidated rising to 90 and the deferred to 79. Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary have touched 107, and are likely to go much higher, if neither locusts nor the maize crop spoil the prospects. But the market which excites the most interest is undoubtedly the South African. That there will be opposition to the importation of Chinese both in the Legislative Council and the colony of the Transvaal is certain. Indeed, the resignation of Mr. Wybergh, the Commissioner of Mines, shows that trouble is brewing. But when Lord Milner and the magnates both mean the But when Lord Milner and the magnates both mean the same thing, few men doubt that it will come about. The ridiculous announcement, made with so pomposity by the "Morning Post", that the Chinese Government had decided to prohibit the exportation of Government had decided to pronibit the exportation of its subjects to South Africa did not depress prices more than a sixteenth. Anyone familiar with the sublime contempt felt by the Celestial big-wigs for the trafficking of the barbarian with its coolie class must have appreciated the rumour at its proper value, which was nothing. Whether the Kaffir boom will must have appreciated the rumour at its proper value, which was nothing. Whether the Kaffir boom will come in January, or May, or November, no man, least of all a magnate, can tell. Certainly the movement will not start with the British public. It will be begun by the Continental speculator, but when once it is begun, no man can foresee how far it will go. There reat deal of stock to come out of the boxes of stale British holders, certainly, but a new class of buyers very quickly springs up. It is not likely, how-ever, that anything will be done this side of Christmas.

A sure sign of reviving prosperity is the appearance of new companies. It is so long since the company promoter has reared his head, that a couple of industrial prospectuses quite cheers the eye. Perhaps the Messrs. Hambro will resent being classed as company promoters, but they have underwritten the issue of £200,000 preference shares (for 3 per cent. commission) in the amalgamation of those well-known building firms, Trollopes and Colls. Assuming the advertisement in the "Times" to be the full prospectus, there are two points in it which we do not like. The preference shareholders, who provide the cash, are not to be summoned to or to vote at general meetings unless their dividends of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. are more than three months in arrear. As the vendors, the said Messrs. Trollope and Colls, take all the 250,000 ordinary shares, and compose the entire board of directors, shares, and compose the entire board of directors, the company will be entirely at their mercy. We do not approve of this. The preference shareholders are entitled to something besides their dividends: they are entitled to know how the business of the company is being conducted, and they ought to have as many directors on the board as the vendors. Then the auditors' certificate of profits strikes us as too curt and vague. They certify indeed that the joint profits of the two firms have been more than four times the amount of the dividend on the preference shares, but amount of the dividend on the preference shares, but amount of the dividend on the preference shares, but only three years' profits are taken, which is too short a period, and the accounts of the two firms are taken together, which is not very satisfactory, for one of the concerns may be declining and the other improving. The certificate as to profits cannot be too detailed. In addition to stockin-trade, book debts, plant, bills receivable, there is a cash working capital of £50,000, none too much for two such businesses as Trollopes and Colls. The other floation is that of G. Beer, the Parisian Couturier. Messrs. Chalmers Guthrie & Co. invite subscriptions for 205,000, 7 per cent, preference shares. turier. Messrs. Chalmers Guthrie & Co. invite subscriptions for 205,000 7 per cent. preference shares, which have been underwritten. Here at least we have five years' profits certified by Messrs. Price Waterhouse, averaging over £36,000 (in 1902 they amounted to £54,201), while the interest on the whole preference issue of 240,000 shares comes to £16,800. This is

satisfactory, as far as it goes, but a fashionable Couturier's business is to some extent personal. and we should like to know how old Messrs. Beer & Badin may be. £299,765 is charged for goodwill, which is more than eight years' purchase of the average profits. All the directors but one are practical drapers. But who is Mr. F. J. Benson, "merchant"? We knew a company promoter of that name, once.

CLERICAL MEDICAL LIFE OFFICE.

THE Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society with dignified leisureliness publishes the report of its business five months after the close of financial year. The report, when it arrives, invariably gives evidence of substantial success. Beyond question the society is one of the best in existence; the list of directors contains a large number of distinguished names; its connexions are excellent, and its reputation great. As a consequence of these manifold advantages it is able to obtain a considerable volume of new business at an expense that only slightly exceeds the average expenditure of British offices. The premium income and the funds of the Society increase steadily year by year; the annual premiums now amounting to £326,000, and the Life Assurance Fund to more than $\mathcal{L}_{4,000,000}$. This society was one of the first offices to adopt the strong basis of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in valuing its liabilities, and as its funds earn about \mathcal{L}_3 135. its liabilities, and as its funds earn about £3 135. per cent., there is a large margin of surplus accruing annually as the result of its strong reserves, which accomplish the double purpose of affording a large margin for security and assuring the maintenance of a high rate of bonus. The eminence of its medical directors makes it not surprising that the important matter of medical examination is managed with exceptional success. The society long are made a feature of success. The society long ago made a feature of accepting second-rate lives at increased rates of premium. It needs great judgment to handle this class of business successfully, but the favourable mortality experience of the office shows that this difficult task has been accomplished, and in certain ways the system of bonus distribution adopted by the office works very favourably for policy-holders who are accepted at an increased rate of premium, on account of some disease or constitutional defect.

accepted at an increased rate of premium, on account of some disease or constitutional defect.

So good an office as the Clerical, Medical and General has to be judged by the very highest standards, and tested in this way its rate of expenditure is scarcely satisfactory. Last year the commission and expenses absorbed over 13 per cent. of the premium income, in addition to which there was an exceptional item of £6,000 for the cost of an annuity to a retired official. This increased the rate of expenditure to 15 per cent. of the premium income. A further expense to participating policy-holders, for which they receive no benefit whatever, is the amount paid in dividends to shareholders. The paid-up capital of the society is £50,000, which may be assumed to earn interest at 4 per cent., or £2,000 a year, so that the policy-holders pay about £13,000 each year, or approximately 4½ per cent. of the premium income for the benefit of a body of proprietors, whose existence is not of the slightest advantage to the holders of policies. Thus, including the exceptional item of the cost of the pension, the total expenditure last year amounted to 19½ per cent. of the premium income, and, excluding the pension, the expense ratio was 17½ per cent., which is above the average rate of expenditure of British offices in general, and greatly in excess of that of the best offices, with which alone the Clerical Medical ought to be compared.

The annual report of the society makes a special Clerical Medical ought to be compared.

The annual report of the society makes a special feature of non-participating policies "which are granted at rates of premium almost incredibly low". The non-profit rates of the Clerical Medical are exceptionally favourable. At most ages one or two offices of equal financial standing quote rates that are very slightly less, and we rather fancy that in the matter of surrender values and other policy-conditions, these other societies are more liberal to their policy-holders. But such differences are not of extreme importance.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. DAVIDSON'S CONCEITS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

28 November, 1903. Sir,—My recollection was of a blank-verse passage; but I accept the decision of so many authorities without demur. I regret that my memory played me false, and I shall sit in sackcloth and ashes for the less-Tennyson. I beg to enclose one guinea.

JCHN DAVIDSON.

On this ensued the following correspondence:

DEAR MR. DAVIDSON,—Many thanks for your cheque; but have you not "struck" much too early in the battle? We think of course that you will not be able to find "screaming wave" anywhere in Tennyson; but I cannot pretend that we have collated all his poems to prove it. I do not think you should "part" until you have. Meanwhile I shall hold the cheque inviolate.

Very truly yours,

Very truly yours, HAROLD HODGE, Editor S.R.

1 December, 1903.

DEAR MR. HODGE,—Many thanks for your letter.
I am not fighting. I did pick up Tennyson, the 1894
collected edition, the only Tennyson I have, but found it not half-cut; it was hopeless to search, as my recol-lection of the "screaming wave" dates back twenty years at least. The real penalty is that having made a mistake, because even if the "screaming wave" should be found, I ought never to have forgotten the "screaming beach"—the real penalty is that having made a mistake I am debarred from replying to your review of my "Rosary"

But I am aghast at what I have done in sending so many people into the vast enchantment of Tennyson. I beg you to conclude the matter at once. If I could I would put away Tennyson and a number of other writers for a hundred years, for a hundred years at least, Tennyson and other hiders of the world.

Very truly yours, John Davidson.]

THE BOARD SCHOOL GIRL.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

30 November, 1903.

SIR,—In contrast to a "London School Manager" I read Mrs. F. A. Steel's article on the 14th inst. with grim satisfaction. If the cookery, needlework or laundry-work taught in the elementary day schools is serviceable and practical the credit must be given to the managers and not to the regulations. In a village of less than 200 inhabitants in this county, we have a voluntary school with an average attendance of less than fifty including infants. During 1895 the managers, who are wealthy laymen, introduced cookery for the elder girls into this school at my suggestion.

Matters went well under the male inspectors from Whitehall until last year, when for the first time a surprise visit was paid by a lady inspector of domestic economy. She found eight girls making an apple pie. Her first objection was that four large apples were being used instead of eight smaller, and only one half the girls could consequently "core and peel". The teacher—a sensible woman of middle age—explained that each got her turn, but large apples were the more

that each got her turn, but large apples were the more economical. She was instructed that "an apple for economical. She was instructed that "an apple for each girl must be used in future and eight pies must be made instead of one". In vain the teacher urged that the making and baking of a "doll's" pie was not equivalent to the preparation of a pie sufficient, say for four persons. "Each child must in future make a pie. Rice puddings must receive similar treatment." "But what is to be done with the one egg?" was asked. "Beat it up and divide it into eight parts"! "Beat it up and divide it into eight parts"!

The following day I was sent for, twenty miles distant, when the above was the tale to which I had to listen. My advice was to disregard such senseless rubbish and to continue to make pies and puddings with common sense and to await the issue.

The teacher with tears in her voice crying "Who will eat or buy 'dolls' pies?" Who indeed?

Recently I asked a village carpenter to accept a clever boy as apprentice. His reply was "not if you have taught him to 'notch wood'". This was consequent on his knowledge of the system of manual instruction taught by one of the schoolmasters in a neighbouring town. Being a practical man he added "you do not train builders of locomotive engines as mathematical instrument makers nor send farm horsemathematical instrument makers nor send farm horsekeepers to a racing stable to learn their duties".

Our servant maid was taught needlework in our

village school where the needlework teacher is one of the finest needlewomen in the county. The maid says she made one under-garment at school in four years, the remainder of her time being occupied in sewing pieces. She left school two years since, consequently this is not ancient history. The teacher laments to me that the work she has to teach is far too fine and the making of garments not nossible in village school. making of garments not possible in village schools, there being no market for such articles.

It is admitted that the best of domestic servants are village bred and the best "job" and shop foremen in the mechanical arts were village lads. Their environment from birth added to their all-round training, alike tending to fertility of resource and self-reliance.

To encourage resistance to authority is not conducive to discipline, whilst to "rat" is the most unpardonable of professional crimes, but there are occasions when they become the only specific. Consequently by your leave I will subscribe myself

Yours faithfully, EDUCATIONIST.

UPPINGHAM SCHOOL

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW. Sandhouse, Witley, Surrey,

1 December, 1503. SIR,—Your interesting account of Uppingham School in the issue of the 28 November contains one serious inaccuracy. It is said "Uppingham claims to be the inaccuracy. It is said "Uppingham claims to be the first school to have started a 'gym' and rifle-shooting". This is true of the "gym", but strangely incorrect of rifle-shooting. When other schools had rifle corps, Thring remained to the end of his life strongly against the movement. He was most outspoken and contemptuous of "boys playing at soldiers". The rifle corps at Uppingham dates from days since Thring and is directly against his theory and preaching. Yours truly,
Joseph King. preaching.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Loughrigg Holme, Ambleside, I December, 1903.

Sir,—All old Uppinghamians will be grateful to you for the article on Thring's work in your last week's number. As one who being first a boy and then a master under Thring has watched the growth of the school from the first and is still watching it with upphated interest may I point out that Universal unabated interest, may I point out that Uppingham started a "Gym", a school mission and universal military drill before any other public school and also a carpenter's shop, but not rifle-shooting?

The David concert-room so long desired and so well deserved ought not to be described as a "feature of the school" as yet. It is a desideratum still; and another five or six hundred pounds at least is needed before it can be begun. Will any of your readers help

towards it?

Yours, &c. W. F. RAWNSLEY.

THE ETON HARE-HUNT.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The opponents of sport systematically over-look one of its chief virtues. Though primarily it may be the destroyer, it is at one and the same time almost the sole preserver of wild life that we have in our

densely populated country.

Abolish hunting and its attendant watchfulness and straightway the stag, the fox, the otter and the hare would become extinct; abolish shooting and a similar fate would await the pheasant and the partridge. The only sanctuaries these creatures now obtain is on the

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estates of those who, if they do at times persecute, atone therefor by a careful protection in the breeding season and an ungrudging supply of food and thought throughout the year.

throughout the year.

The badger, now no longer the care of sportsmen, is rapidly dying out; even the rabbit, prolific as he is, knows that his only safe home is within the domain of sport. Supposing that our upper classes took no thought for the killing of game and other creatures, these would be at the mercy of the navvy who has all the instinct of destruction without the instinct of fair play; the comparative tameness of wild animals in the spring would only be his great opportunity. spring would only be his great opportunity.

Whenever life is taken there must be some cruelty. Whenever life is taken there must be some cruelty. It is an open question whether the hare in a forty minutes' "run" or the sheep or bullock in the long hours spent in the vicinity of the slaughter house suffers the greater agony. At any rate the one knows she has a chance of escape, the other with an animal's instinct recognises the certainty of impending death. I am devoted to all kinds of animals but even in my most sentimental mood on their behalf I perceive how great a debt every nature lover owes to energy. Apart

great a debt every nature-lover owes to sport. Apart from the creatures that are the direct objects of pursuit there are many other kinds which incidentally find a afe refuge within the precincts of a game preserve. And as necessary adjuncts of sport we have, to a large extent, the horse and several of the more intelligent canine breeds that otherwise would have no raison-

Therefore, if only as the advocate of animal life, I would that not only Etonians but all public-school boys should be trained to every form of sport, to hunt, to shoot, to fish and to love these things; they are too a means to another end; every good sportsman is a gentlement and humans. a means to another ender gentleman and humane.

Faithfully yours,

ALAN R. HAIG BROWN.

BAYLISS v. COLERIDGE. To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Anti-Vivisectionist" says as the result of the trial Bayliss v. Coleridge the public will "tegard with suspicion and distrust all charges of a similar nature" and they will be wise to do so. May I quote from a lecture given by Professor Augustus Waller, F.R.S., on the administration of chloroform, published in the "Lancet" of 28 November? He says: "It is really labour lost to be constantly pleading 'not guilty' to this, that, or the other quite outrageous statement; we can only wonder that well-meaning people can so quietly harbour such infamous thoughts." He however goes on to say: "We well know that physiologists are subject to the common laws governing the human mind and that habit must tend to engender inattention and inattention would be cruelty. We are -Your correspondent "Anti-Vivisectionist" says inattention and inattention would be cruelty. We are on our guard against our own inattention but knowing that we are human we do not resent as indignantly as might be expected the denunciations of our critics." This is a generous statement when one remembers the character of the accusations brought against physiologists. Professor Waller, however, goes on to remark that it is difficult to imagine what can be in the minds of "deluded fanatics whose pity has been fanned to hatred by agitators" and adds "can it be expected of us that we should say anything at all to persons who can employ sensational literature to poison the wells of human sympathy?" A little lower down he says: "I make the deliberate statement that animals in this laboratory are anæsthetised with as great certainty and accuracy as are the patients in any hospital in the United Kingdom".

I am, Sir, yours very truly,
A Lover of the Truth.

FREE IMPORTS OF ALIENS. To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Glasgow, I December, 1903.

Sir,—In your interesting review of Major W. Evans-Gordon's book "The Alien Immigrant" it is stated Sir, In your interesting review of Major W. Evans-Gordon's book "The Alien Immigrant" it is stated "In Scotland the miners are being displaced by aliens who cannot speak English, and who endanger their own and their fellow-workmen's lives by their pathy with the art of to-day that his letter I think will

ignorance: Amongst miners diseases previously un-known have been introduced." I happen to live in a district where a considerable alien population is employed in the mining of fireclay and I have yet to learn of a percentage of mining accidents and disease learn of a percentage of mining accidents and disease above the normal in consequence. One thing I can assert—Trades Unionism is responsible for the employment of these aliens. The fireclay industry at a critical period was forced to protect itself against the exorbitant demands of Trades Union officials, with the result that Mr. Hunter of Free Labour notoriety was called in. After many month, the employers were successful in introducing foreign the employers were successful in introducing foreign labour and since have been able to place their establishments upon a footing which permits a fair return upon capital employed.

Yours truly, H. B. G. H.

FOOD AND EDUCATION. To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW. 37 Dartmouth Park Road, N.W.

If this is so it would explain why negroes' teeth

I December, 1903.

SIR,—I read Mr. William Henry's letter "sticking
" for sugar with much interest. Presumably he like to ask if it is not a fact that sugar prepared from beetroot does contain an acid injurious to the enamel of the teeth which is not present in that extracted from cane. If this is so it would explain why negroes' teeth

are not affected by chewing sugar cane.

The recent legislation against sugar bounties may thus be an indirect means of improving the nation's teeth!

Your obedient servant,

F. ADAMS.

THE CHANTREY BEQUEST, THE ACADEMY, AND MR. SPIELMANN.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Paris, 30 November, 1900.

SIR,—It is amusing to see how soon a nemesis has overtaken Mr. D. S. MacColl. He who does not hesitate to accuse a body of gentlemen of criminal mis-conduct, artlessly warns Mr. Finch Hatton that "there is a danger in over-statement"; and he who charged me with being champion of the Royal Academy because me with being champion of the Royal Academy because I pointed out the exaggerations in the case against that institution now lays himself open to similar unreasonableness for the admission that "there are good things even in the Chantrey Collection", and for defending Mr. Watts, Mr. Thornycroft, Leighton, Mr. W. L. Wyllie, and Mr. Orchardson, as well as Mr. Alfred Gilbert as one of our few "authentic artists".

Mr. Finch Hatton's letter is deplorable, not because

Mr. Finch Hatton's letter is deplorable, not because of its attack upon the Academy but because it seems to suggest that all modern art should be swept away, that suggest that all modern art should be swept away, that the workers of to-day are not to strike out new methods, new ideas, new lines. If these views had been held in the days of the masters he rightly vaunts, had these been denounced at the expense of their past, to what extent would they have been encouraged to produce their masterpieces? Mr. Finch Hatton 'declares that the Academy, which has established the Old Masters' exhibition were by year at great expenditure of time and exhibition year by year at great expenditure of time and money, "have never shown any desire to study their works, &c.", and holds that no art is worth buying other than that of old and deceased masters. This constant and contemptuous comparison of the present with the past, this eternal preaching of the deterioration of to-day, can but accentuate the atrophy complained of, and cannot but chill the enthusiasm and weaken the and cannot but chill the enthusiasm and weaken the efforts of those who are striving, in the face of irony such as Mr. Finch Hatton's, to sustain the honour of their craft to the best of their ability. It was surely in some measure against the depressing influence of such as he that Chantrey sought to protect struggling professors of art, when he established his fund for the "encouragement of British fine art". You cannot

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scarcely be regarded as valuable testimony. His evident allusion to myself I pass by, as it is needless to repudiate again the mistaken significance he attaches to an expression used by me in the "Magazine of Art".

I now deal with Mr. Harry Quilter who persists in loading me with his attentions. In the course of a past controversy in which, as I explained, I had nothing whatever to do with the Royal Academy; in which the Academy itself had nothing whatever to do in the matter; in which Sir Edward Poynter acted on his personal initiative without communication with Academy and therefore not as its President—of which action I clearly declared I naturally knew absolutely nothing—in this case, nevertheless, three correspondents replying to my letter in the "Times" and elsewhere sought to discount my contentions by gratui-tously dragging in the Royal Academy, and, ground-lessly declaring me to be, as it were, in league with that body in the matter, dubbed me its "champion"—a retainer, so to say—an innuendo which appears to have retainer, so to say—an innuendo which appears to have been meant to stick, and has stuck. Mr. Harry Quilter, ever ready to rush in where I tread, was one of these. My denial, so far as I have seen, drew no apology or withdrawal from him; yet he grossly accuses me of "falsehood" when, referring to the extraordinary coincidence of three correspondents simultaneously advancing an identical baseless charge, I spoke of what seemed to me "an amusingly-betrayed I spoke of what seemed to me "an amusingly-betrayed understanding". I denied his charge as I have had to I denied his charge as I have had to denied my retort. There the matter deny others; he denied my retort. There the matter would have rested. But Mr. Harry Quilter, who does not spare others, carries his grievance and his lamentations into paper after paper. Even had the letter you print contained arguments I have not already dealt with and disproved, I should give no more attention to his public utterances than I have given to his private communications. When a man writes to the Press, as Mr. Harry Quilter has latterly done, that he had not yet read my article but that he could not let a day pass without giving it a complete denial, I can only repeat that I must refuse to notice him further until he shows that I must refuse to nonhimself a worthier adversary.
I am, Sir, &c.
M. H. Spielmann at eve

[It is necessary to check Mr. Spielmann at every esh turn. There is no "nemesis", because from my fresh turn. first article I have been careful to frame the indictment in the most exact and moderate terms. From the first I have allowed that certain artists in the Academy were worthy of purchase for the Chantrey collection: the charge was that the unworthy in the Academy exhibitions were more freely bought, and the worthy outside of it systematically neglected, in contravention of the plain terms of Chantrey's Will. Does Mr. Spielmann, or does he not, deny this? At first I gave the Trustees the benefit of a doubt; I said they had perhaps acted in ignorance (an ignorance that would be culpable enough) of the terms of the Will. But one be culpable enough) of the terms of the Will. But one of their number cut this ground away by asserting that the Will was read at all their meetings. I therefore advanced to the position (and I prefer to state it in my own measured words rather than Mr. Spielmann's), that they had "with full knowledge, administered, in their own interests, the fund of which they are Trustees". Does Mr. Spielmann, or does he not, deny this? He has convicted me, in no single instance, of exaggeration of the facts, or misinterpretation of the Will; and I may say here that my interpretation is supported by high judicial authority. That being so, my conclusion follows. He has retreated from the only point at which he attempted to set up a different reading, viz. his use of a truncated clause as an argument for purchase from the Academy Exhibitions. When Mr. Spielmann has decided on his final attitude, we shall know better whether or not to call him the "champion" of the Academy, though the point is not of the first importance. From a phrase in his reply to Mr. Quilter ("ever ready to rush in where I tread") we may surmise that he claims to be recognised not as something less than the Champion of the Academy but as something more than its Angel. With the best will in the world we cannot just set great him calestial. in the world we cannot, just yet, grant him celestial rank.—D. S. MacColl.]

REVIEWS.

A CHARACTER OF THE GEORGEIAN ERA.
"The Creevey Papers." Edited by the Right Hon.
Sir Herbert Maxwell Bart. In 2 vols. London: Murray. 1903. 31s. net.

THERE has always been in every generation some man very well known in society and the House of Commons, who exercises considerable influence over the male and female leaders of his day, but who is perfectly unknown, either by name or sight, to the outside world. Such a man is generally spoken of as "a character". "Don't you know Old So-and-So? You ought to: he's a regular character." Thomas Creevey M. P. was a character in society and the House of Commons from 1802 to 1832, though we had never heard or read of him until we took up this very amusing and historically valuable collection of Papers, which Sir Herbert Maxwell has edited. Without birth, money, or education, or rhetorical gifts, Thomas Creevey pushed himself into a pocket borough of the Duke of Norfolk, and into the innermost circles of Whig society, in days when it was a great deal more exclusive than it has ever been since the Reform Act of 1832. He lived in the closest family intimacy with the Greys, the Derbys, the Sestons and the Clevelands; was the right-hand man in the House of Commons of Samuel Whitbread; and was the confidential crony of Brougham. "Punch" Greville, the diarist, a shrewd but by no means charitable judge—especially of rivals in his own line—sums up Creevey's character and career in a striking and picturesque passage. 'Old Creevey is rather an extraordinary character. I know nothing of the early part of his history, but I believe he was an attorney or barrister; he married a widow, who died a few years ago; she had something, he nothing; he got into Parliament, belonged to the Whigs, displayed a good deal of shrewdness and humour, and was for some time very troublesome to the Tory Government by attacking abuses. After some time he lost his seat, and went to live at Brussels, where he became intimate with the Duke of Wellington. Then his wife died, upon which event he was thrown upon the world with about £200 a year or less; no home, few connexions, a great many a year or less; no home, few connexions, a great many acquaintances, a good constitution, and extraordinary spirits. He possesses nothing but his clothes; no property of any sort; he leads a vagrant life, visiting a number of people who are delighted to have him, and sometimes roving about to various places, as fancy hap-pens to direct, and staying till he has spent what money he has in his pocket. He has no servant, no home, no creditors; he buys everything as he wants it at the place he is at; he has no ties upon him, and has his time entirely at his own disposal and that of his friends. He is certainly a proof that a man may be perfectly happy and exceedingly poor, or rather without riches, for he suffers none of the privations of poverty and enjoys many of the advantages of wealth. I think he is the only man I know in society who possesses nothing." Nor was this an exaggeration of Greville's, for Creevey at his death left £300 or £400. If we reflect that in the society of those days (1800 to 1832) high play and deep drinking were almost universal, that travelling was done by coaches and post-chaises, that clothes were still made of costly and coloured stuffs, that the big houses were manned by troops of servants who expected vails, it is miraculous how Creevey managed to do it. He was evidently a man of no ordinary calibre, for he never played, he never asked anybody to dinner, and he did not get into debt. He drank and swore, to be sure, but at other people's expense.

What was his secret? A good deal of Creevey's success was undoubtedly due to his animal spirits, the result of perfect health. Everybody knows how involved at the digneratable, but more particularly in

valuable at the dinner-table, but more particularly in the country house, is the man who is always cheery and never ill, or depressed. Creevey was not a wit in the sense of a concoctor of "mots" and epigrams; but he always had his jokes with the ladies, and even wrote verses on celebrities. But he must have been a great deal more than "the funny man", or the Duke of Wellington, Lord Grey, and Brougham would not have wasted their time on him. This same exuberance of

vitality made Creevey invaluable to his party in the House of Commons. Through the long thirty years of Opposition Creevey never despaired of the Whig cause. Opposition Creevey never despaired of the Whig cause. He belonged to the extreme wing, the "Mountain" as it was called in those days, and was always ready to expose a Tory job, and go for Pitt, Canning, or Castlereagh. This readiness to do the dirty work, which the more fastidious leaders so often shirk, always makes a man popular with his party, who caress him in private, even when they disown him in public. Finally, Creevey was indefatigable with his pen. Sir Herbert Maxwell tells us that the two volumes before us contain only a fiftieth of the letters submitted to his eye, and that besides these there was a very voluminous diary which, it is surmised, submitted to his eye, and that besides these there was a very voluminous diary which, it is surmised, Brougham purchased and suppressed. Plainly, this was no ordinary man: and one cannot help reflecting that if he had applied his power of self-denial, his social gifts, and his industry to the Bar or the Civil Service, or to commerce, he would almost certainly have achieved affluence and a more solid position. The truth we suppose, is that when a person gets into the way of living constantly in the houses of the great and rich it becomes impossible to give it up for attendance at an office or chambers. But Creevey achieved the rare distinction of being a "pique-assiette" without loss of dignity or self-respect. No one bullied him, not even "Old Madagascar", as he calls Lady Holland. Indeed, Sydney Smith thanked Creevey as a public benefactor for standing up to that vulgar tyrant. He never became a sponge, or a borrower, or went to houses unless he was cordially welcome. Lambton, He never became a sponge, or a borrower, or went to houses unless he was cordially welcome. Lambton, the first Lord Durham, whom Creevey well describes as "acid and contemptuous", once insulted him, but he did not do it twice. This colliery-peer, though rolling in the wealth of his newly discovered pits, was a rude and stingy host. "Soup was handed round—from where God knows: but before Lambton stood a disk with one small haddeck and three small witings. dish with one small haddock and three small whitings in it, which he instantly ordered off the table, to avoid the trouble of helping. Mrs. Grey and myself were at least ten minutes without any prospect of getting any servant to attend to us, although I made repeated application to Lambton, who was all this time eating his own fish as comfortably as could be. So my application to Lambton, who was all this time eating his own fish as comfortably as could be. So my blood beginning to boil, I said:—'Lambton, I wish you would tell me to what quarter I am to apply for some fish.' To which he replied in the most impertinent manner, 'The servant, I suppose'. I turned to Mills and said pretty loud: 'Now, if it was not for the fuss and jaw of the thing, I would leave the room and the house this instant'; and I dwelt on the damned outrage." We can understand that Lord Durham quarrelled with everybody, and that Lady Holland was afraid of Creevey. There is a description of this insufferable woman's manners at Cassiobury which is almost incredible. "She came one day and sat close beside me in the library; and when she had begun to talk to me, a little, tidy old woman came and went down on her marrow-bones; woman came and went down on her marrow-bones; and began to put her hands up her petticoats. So of course I was for backing off de suite; but she said; 'Don't go, Creevey; it is only my rubber, and she won't disturb us.'" When he first married Mrs. Ord, won't disturb us." When he first married Mrs. Ord, Creevey lived at Brighton and became one of the Regent's table intimates. There is a vivid description of the Pavilion, and "Sherry" and the Prince's orgies. About 1814 Creevey took his wife to Brussels for quiet! The letters that relate to the Duke of Wellington and the battle of Waterloo are as descriptively good as the pages of "Vanity Fair" and naturally more authentic. But perhaps the most interesting part of the correspondence is that which describes the trial of Queen Caroline in the House of Lords. It is revolting to read how brutally and heartlessly Brougham made use of this wretched woman for his own professional advancement and as a stick with own professional advancement and as a stick with which to beat the Tory Government. Anyone who wants to know why Brougham was Lord Chancellor for only two years, and why for more than thirty years neither party would give him office, should read the Creevey Papers. The two personages of the times who are depicted in the most amiable light are Lord Sefton and Lord Grey. Latterly Creevey almost lived

with Sefton, and Grey did not forget to provide for him. When the Coalition Government was formed in 1806 Creevey was appointed Secretary to the Board of Control, but lost it on the death of Fox and the break up of the Administration a year later. When Lord Grey came in again in 1832 Creevey was an elderly man of sixty-two, but he was immediately made Treasurer of the Board of Ordnance. When this office had been reformed away Creevey was made Treasurer of Greenwich Hospital with £600 a year and a house, in which he died after a few years' occupancy. His end was therefore happy. We have not read so interesting and amusing a picture of politics and society for many a day. Sir Herbert Maxwell has edited the Papers with a skill and tact which nothing but the practice of a man of letters a politician and a man of the world can confer.

ENDLESS PHILOSOPHY.

"The Development of Modern Philosophy, with other Lectures and Essays." By Robert Adamson. Edited by W. R. Sorley. In two volumes. London: Blackwood. 1903. 18s. net.

IT has often been complained that philosophy does not advance; that we do not find in its history any definite conclusions which, once established, are never questioned again, and of which the number is continually increasing. We venture to say that, so long as the best books on the subject are books like the one before us, there is no hope that it ever will advance.

we say that these philosophic remains of the late Professor Adamson are to be classed with the best work that is done upon philosophy. Professor Adamson's reputation would have led us to expect that they would e so; and so indeed they are. And yet we say that they will rather retard than advance any possible progress in will rather retard than advance any possible progress in philosophy. Professor Adamson's work is of the best in the three following respects. It displays no ordinary ability to apprehend distinctions—that ability which is necessary for any thinking upon difficult subjects, that shall not be grossly absurd. It displays also the industry and patience which are necessary to do a great quantity of such thinking. It displays finally extensive and accurate learning. In these respects it is very good philosophic work; but it also resembles is very good philosophic work; but it also resembles most very good philosophic work in one unfortunate defect—a defect which renders these great merits certainly useless, and probably even worse than useless. Almost every sentence in these two thick volumes less. Almost every sentence in these two thick volumes is so ambiguous, that when you ask yourself what you have been told upon any subject whatsoever, you can be certain of nothing except of what is either itself ambiguous or else perfectly trivial. Here and there, indeed, you may find a sentence (perhaps one sentence in six pages) which appears to convey a single definite meaning of great importance. But if you further try to find what reasons are given for accepting such a view, you will find none except such as are either again ambiguous or else tend only to establish some other utterly different and quite trivial establish some other utterly different and quite trivial proposition. It seems quite plain that Professor Adamson himself has failed to distinguish what his arguments do tend to show from what they do not tend show; and this because he has begun by asking uself none but ambiguous questions. Philosophy himself none but ambiguous questions. Philosophy written on such a method may well be thought to be worse than useless. It can tend only to propagate its like. It depends for its interest upon ambiguity; and the same ambiguity which allows it to draw interesting conclusions with apparent plausibility will allow an endless succession of different conclusions to be drawn with an equal apparent plausibility. So far, then, as it tends to propagate philosophy, it will propagate only bad philosophy; and against this disutility is only to be set the bare fact that it does perhaps perpetuate an interest in philosophy. An interest in philosophy there must be, if there is ever to be any good philosophy. But it may be truly said that to put a single question clearly, even though it were not answered, would contribute more to progress in philosophy than the whole of these

The ambiguity of thought, of which we have been speaking, may be partly cause and partly effect of

the use of certain ambiguous words: the use of these is certainly a sign of it. We may, then, make, with regard to philosophy in general, a recommendation similar to that which Professor Adamson himself makes with regard to Sociology. "I venture to say", we find (ii. p. 81), "that the employment of the notion [social organism] is always a sign of an unscientific stage of sociological thinking". In this remark we heartily concur; but we venture to think that there are many words, the use of which is a still more certain sign of unscientific thinking in philosophy. If a philosopher, we would say, finds that he cannot express his thoughts without frequent use of the phrases "subjective", "objective", "concrete", "abstract", "unity of consciousness", "systematic connexion", "continuous", he had certainly better not express them. That he should want to use these phrases often is a sure sign that his thoughts are confused. He had better wait until he can express what he thinks in some other words. By the time that he can do so, he will have changed his views so much that he will have no temptation to use the phrases in question. Many other phrases might be added to the list. We have only given some of those which are apt to occur at important points in Professor Adamson's arguments; and Professor Adamson has the merit that he uses fewer than most philosophers of the present day.

Sophers of the present day.

Obviously, if what we have said be true, it must be extremely difficult to say what is Professor Adamson's view on any of the subjects which he discusses. About almost all these subjects the book tells us properly nothing whatever, since it tells us nothing definite. In order to arrive at anything definite we must ourselves distinguish ideas which Professor Adamson does not distinguish; and when this is done, we can only say: Professor Adamson thought either this, or this, or this, or, more probably, he thought all three. And only then can we discuss whether what he thought was true or false. We propose to undertake this labour only in one important instance. In dealing with this instance we shall be doing all that can be done to justify the criticism which we have passed upon the

book as a whole.

Berkeley, it is well known, held that, in some sense or other, matter does not exist. And he was certainly led to this conclusion partly by another theory of his—the theory that, in some sense or other, we have no direct knowledge of anything except ourselves and our own states of mind. This latter theory has been called "Subjective Idealism", and it is universally recognised to be one of the most important matters upon which philosophy has to decide. Some of those who call themselves Idealists hold that in this theory Berkeley made a bad mistake; while others hold that in it he discovered a most important truth. Professor Adamson expressly agrees with those who take the former view; and he appears to think the matter highly important. He tells us again and again that Subjective Idealism is false: he thinks, as Kant thought, that some of Kant's views refute Subjective Idealism, and he regards this fact as one of Kant's chief merits; he thinks, too, that other of Kant's views are indistinguishable from Subjective Idealism, and he appears to regard this fact as one of Kant's views are indistinguishable from Subjective Idealism, and he appears to regard this fact as one of Kant's gravest defects. On this point, then, if anywhere, we might expect that pains would have been taken to think clearly. We might expect to find definite information, first, as to what, exactly, Subjective Idealism is; secondly, as to why it is wrong; and thirdly, as to what we do directly know, if not ourselves and our own states only. But what do we find?

been taken to think clearly. We might expect to find definite information, first, as to what, exactly, Subjective Idealism is; secondly, as to why it is wrong; and thirdly, as to what we do directly know, if not ourselves and our own states only. But what do we find? Professor Adamson does, in places, appear to give a clear account of what Subjective Idealism is. It holds, he says, "that whatever is known consists in its own nature of those processes which are called by us 'states of mind'"; "that, from the nature of consciousness, what is apprehended can be only subjective experience"; or again "that facts of mind are known directly, and direct knowledge is confined to such facts of mind". This view, he tells us, is false; and it would seem there could be no doubt as to what he is here maintaining to be false. Yet there is doubt; for when we look to see what are his reasons for holding it to be false, we find the following. "It proceeds on the assumption

that in the genesis of knowledge we start with the determination of the contents presented as subjective, as forming therefore part of the inner life of a finite subject." This is ambiguous: it suggests both the theory which has just been stated, and the entirely different one to which we are about to proceed; and it is a fair specimen of the ambiguities of which most of the book is composed. But on the next page we find something much less ambiguous: the theory that "we start with the determination of the presented contents as subjective" is now expressly identified with the theory that "the prior fact in knowledge" is "that we characterise our experience as subjective". To "characterise our experience as subjective" seems plainly to mean "to think that it is subjective", not merely to know that which is, as a matter of fact, subjective. And the matter is soon put beyond a doubt. There follows a sentence in which Professor Adamson holds himself to give the lie to subjective idealism: "neither chronologically nor logically", he says, "does the recognition of the subjective character of inner experience precede external perception—the recognition, that is, of an objective that is wholly distinct from the inner life". In support of this thesis we find plenty of argument. Professor Adamson seems never tired of insisting on it; and it is a thesis both true and trivial. We certainly do not know that anything is one of our states, until we have known many other things; but this trivial truth neither denies nor renders less probable the important proposition which seemed first to be meant by Subjective Idealism — the proposition that all those other things are, in fact, our own states. Professor Adamson might as well think to prove that he had not found in the streets a purse which belonged to Miss Smith, by insisting that he did not know it was Miss Smith, by insisting that he did not know it was Miss Smith's.

And finally Professor Adamson himself seems to think that after all we are aware of nothing but our own states. He says expressly: "All of which the subject is aware at any moment is in one sense his consciousness, he never explains. We are left to suppose that he means "it is not thought to be so"; since, as we have seen, he identifies "subjective" with "thought to be subjective", and since this confusion certainly runs through his whole work. But in that case Professor Adamson is himself a Subjective Idealist in an immeasurably more important sense than the trivial one which he denies. He is bound to hold the grossly paradoxical conclusion that we cannot even think of anything which is not really a part of ourselves; far less can we know that any such thing exists.

A MAGISTRATE'S MEMORIES.

"Grain or Chaff." By Alfred Chichele Plowden. London: Fisher Unwin. 1903. 16s. net.

M AGISTRATES who write autobiographies as Mr., Plowden has done ought to be encouraged. They increase not only our knowledge of life and of various classes of society little known but they add to our gaiety and amusement. Mr. Plowden has written one of the best of a species of literature which contains only few specimens; those of Mr. Montagu Williams being the best known. There is another most interesting book dealing with that side of the law of which Mr. Plowden is so able and well known an administrator. This is Mr. Holmes' "Pictures and Problems" of the police courts. The new autobiography is a blend of the characteristics of these two books and if Mr. Montagu Williams was happier in his choice of a title "Leaves of a Life" we can at least say of its contents that there is plenty of grain and that the chaff is very good. It is full of readable matter and redolent of personality from beginning to end; and the stories and scenes have an air of reality and a sense of unforced humour, and of the comedy and tragedy of life which should appeal to the very widest circle of readers. We are not surprised that in the form in which they originally appeared—as a sort of feuilleton in an evening paper—they attracted much notice and were very popular. A magistrate less unconventional than Mr. Plowden might have deemed this

method a little wanting in dignity; but if he had been of that particular type he would not have written so attractive a book. He defends himself from charges made against him of being too much inclined to joke in court in two ways, each of which is good. First of all he says that much of the so-called humour or joking ascribed to him is due to the imagination of the police-court reporter. Secondly that in regard to humour, if the possession of it is always a favourable sign in a prisoner, what shall be said of the parlous state of the magistrate who is destitute of it? This is in itself a fair specimen of the vein in which Mr. Plowden writes. It is all very easy, very genial, and amusing and only one passage appears exceptionable. He ought not, in speaking of the sacrifice made by Roman Catholic families, to have sneered at the supposed worldly-mindedness of the younger son of an Anglican family who goes into the Church for the sake of the family living. We object to Mr. Plowden's induction from his experience in the police courts that the limits of divorce should be extended; but the passage above mentioned is the only one which amidst such an abundance of references to personalities

amidst such an abundance of references to personalities has struck us as offending against good taste.

While the book is one that will be appreciated by all classes of readers it is especially adapted to the tastes of lawyers. In his first chapter Mr. Plowden deals in a sufficiently airy manner with matters of pedigree; but plainly he is proud of his descent from the Plowden of the reign of Elizabeth whose name is to lawyers familiar as household words. If Mr. Plowden his descendant has not attained equal professional celebrity he has at least had a career at the Bar and on the Magisterial Bench which few lawyers can affect to despise. They will find his comments and criticisms on the Bar go home to their own feelings and judgments. They will feel the pathos of his references to 'the wasted hopes and energies of so many able bright minds that have sunk into lassitude and ultimate indifference to ambition. To how many, who have escaped this fate by adopting some other pursuit, which has however made success at the Bar impossible, will his reference to his "Times" reportership appeal. And how many will agree with him that unless the highest distinctions of all can be reached at the Bar, the labour and anxiety of professional strain make the lesser honours possible to be attained there not worth the cost. Thus Mr. Plowden, though his income had reached beyond three figures, was glad to retire into the safety and dignity of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. He was convinced, and how many weary pullers at the legal oar will agree heartily with him though unhopefully for themselves, that any bench, however inferior, which leaves a man a reasonable salary and a sense of security, is past all reckoning preferable to the vicissitudes and dangers of a life of advocacy. This wisdom of knowing when to leave the Bar as soon as they have the chance is what would be expected from the men who form the London Magistracy; an order of judges whose abilities and services are of the greatest value, and who are entitled to obtain

AN APOLOGY FOR ANABAPTISM.

"Rise and Fall of the Anabaptists." By E. Belfort Bax. London: Sonnenschein. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1903. 6s.

IN this volume, the third of a series dealing with the social side of the Reformation in Germany, Mr. Belfort Bax comes forward as the champion of a lost cause, the apologist for a form of Mediæval Christian Socialism which he complains has hitherto been dismissed by historians with a few paragraphs of abuse and misrepresentation. For, as he urges, in most ages the dominant class has written history in its own interest, imposing its own view not only on the average intelligence of its own time but handing it down to the second-hand historians of posterity, "themselves the pensioners of the dominant class of their own time". Now however when in social as in scientific matters the

crude fancies and vaguely thought out aims of an earlier age are taken up again by modern thought, the history of the forerunners of modern Socialism, for as such the author recognises the Anabaptist agitators of the sixteenth century, may be written with a more sympathetic understanding of their case. Times have changed indeed, and economic ideals are no longer invariably bound up with religious tenets. But in the Middle Ages "the political and economic aspirations of the democracies naturally clothed themselves in a religious or theological garb, while the religious aspirations themselves seemed to demand political and economic revolutions as conditions of their fulfilment". Luther's translation of the Bible diligently expounded by the uneducated to little knots of ignorant hearers supplied the early Bible Christians with endless personal and topical applications. To the untutored peasants and artisans no break existed between the Saints and Prophets of old and the new spirit of prophecy which animated these self-elected chosen people. Visions, apparitions, prophecies, revelations and inspirations were but evidence of the hysterical condition, amounting often to insanity, induced by the excitement and stress of the time. Here was an opening for hypocrisy which many no doubt eagerly seized, while frantic fanatics, honest but self-deceived, constituted themselves the rulers and demigods of the populace. But beneath all the more sensational aspects of the Anabaptist propaganda runs a strong strain of heroism and stead-fastness in the face of wholesale threatenings and slaughter. The experience of the Peasants' War had put the authorities doubly on their guard, and the Anabaptists reaped the harvest of Münzer's failure in that they were branded as political criminals.

Anabaptists reaped the harvest of Münzer's failure in that they were branded as political criminals.

If Anabaptism grew up first in Switzerland as "an inconvenient radical tail of Zwinglianism", it soon cut itself free and became a third party in the religious polity of the time. For though Anabaptist and Protestant agreed in confounding the Pope with the devil, Protestant and Catholic combined to denounce the Anabaptist, a triangular arrangement which worked ill for the peace of the Empire. Nor were the Anabaptists themselves an homogeneous community, but under the common banner of rebaptism or adult baptism in protest against the admission into the Church of personis too young to know their own minds, numerous sectaties pitched their tents. The party could boast its centre, its left and right wings, each with their extreme supporters, though even the Moderates advocated a policy of Down with Everything. Once lighted the conflagration spread, and ere long from Berne to Amsterdam and from Strasburg to Vienna the Gospel of the Common Man, as Anabaptism came to be called, was preached. Its most extraordinary episode, the capture and subsequent siege of Münster, acts like a blood-and-thunder melodrama, and indeed was seized upon by Meyerbeer as a telling theme for a somewhat grandiloquent operatic composition. Here in the Westphalian capital was established that Reign of the Saints, the Communistic Kingdom of Zion, which its rulers had originally intended to plant in Strasburg. It is in the interpretation of this affair of Münster that the author finds the conventional historian most at fault in his judgment. Without condoning the excesses and follies, the crimes and unsaintlinesses of the "Saints", he pleads that men acting under extraordinary conditions of great popular excitement and immediate personal danger must not be tried by the ordinary standards of every day life. "Münster in 1534 however different otherwise was in this respect like the Paris of 1792. It was a community immediately threatened by an exte

For the establishment of polygamy, which has brought more stones about the heads of the Münster Anabaptists than any other of their irregularities, Mr. Bax offers an explanation and apology ingenious rather than convincing. It is not surprising that the chief opposition to this redistribution came from the women themselves and that special prisons had to be set aside for recalcitrants. John of Leyden himself liberally made use of his Edict in his own household, and the prophets hastened to follow the example of their king. After the fall of Münster had shocked the Anabaptist cause into moderation the social element gradually died out and only the religious creed remained. The Baptist communities of to-day are the peaceful, eminently respectable descendants on the religious side of the turbulent fanatics of Münster. The social problems which Knipperdollinck and his lieutenants so blunderingly attempted to solve are being worked out on more reasonable but less Utopian lines. The communistic ideas of modern German Socialism are but a revised theory of what was the practice of the old Anabaptist bourgeoisie. If throughout his study the author's view is necessarily onesided, it has at any rate the merit of being that of the other side and of meting out mercy to a movement which has hitherto scarcely received even bare justice.

NOVELS.

"Round Anvil Rock." By Nancy Huston Banks.
London: Macmillan. 1903. 6s.

This is a chronicle of the early days of Southern Kentucky, nearly a hundred years ago. The figure which bulks most largely is that of Philip Alston, a notorious desperado of those times, whose career is regarded by Miss Banks from a sentimental and almost tender standpoint. Even the pioneer priest of "the Wilderness" is made to take a similar view of Alston—to shrink from any attempt at unmasking him: and this mainly to avoid disillusionising Alston's ward, the orphan Ruth, who loves him and believes in him utterly. We do not cavil at Alston's love for Ruth, for the "removal" of whose parents it is hinted that he and his gang were responsible: the worst men have had such redeeming traits: but it is hard to believe that for the nearly twenty years during which he terrorised the new State he was the intimate and trusted friend of the judge of that region. It is well enough to make the judge's nephew, a stupid and self-satisfied young man, the unconscious tool of Alston: but the judge was neither unprincipled nor a fool. Such a situation detracts from the actuality of any narrative. Miss Banks had good materials for her story, but she does not seem to us to have used them to the best advantage.

"Wanderer and King." By O. V. Caine. With Illustrations by Henry Austin. London: Nisbet. 1903.

The various branches of fiction intertwine so that it is often difficult to differentiate them. Mr. Caine's new book for instance may be classified either among historical novels or among adventure stories for boys. It seems designed for the former class but would better pass muster in the latter. We have had so many fairly good historical romances during the past few years that a story of this character has to be very good if it is to move us, and very good "Wanderer and King" is not. It is a pleasant enough story of the days that followed Worcester fight, when Charles II. was busy with schemes for regaining the throne, but it is not distinguished above some dozens of tales of a similar character. Mr. O. V. Caine allows fine writing to get the better of him at times, as when he says of "many a brave and loyal race" that it "held its head high in fortune and faced adversity without reproach, as time passed over it and centuries moved on". As though time and centuries in such connection were not the same.

"The Longshoremen." By George Bartram. London: Arnold. 1903. 6s.

Mr. George Bartram is to be congratulated upon having given us a worthy successor to "The Thirteen Evenings". His new romance is instinct with life and character. The scenes are laid about the Sussex

coast and the time is 1811, which is tantamount to saying that the story is one of the old "free-traders". For many readers perhaps the title will convey as much, for the South Coast longshoremen are famous in the annals of illicit trading. The story is concerned with the breaking up of a notorious gang dominated by an old cripple, an extraordinary individual whose villainy knows no bounds, and it is also concerned with the loves of a winsome heroine and a young King's officer, and, incidentally, with the love affairs of several other folk. With plenty of robust characters and a succession of striking incidents we have found it an absorbing story of adventurous romance. Mr. Bartram should not have written—or having written should have cancelled—the line "our late neglected seraph Richard Jefferies".

"Archie Wynward." By Harry Tighe. London: Sonnenschein. 1903. 6s.

Here is an author who is tremendously in earnest, and takes his work very seriously indeed. We can imagine him parting from his characters with a sigh of regret, when at length, and very great length, he consents to give them his final blessing and sends them forth to an unworthy world. Mr. Tighe is evidently acquainted with the details of theatrical life, and makes it his staple commodity; he would also have us know that he could an' he would give us an insight into the lurid doings of a fast London set. A mysterious Lord Stranton, who we are constantly told goes to church every Sunday, figures as a sort of Mephistopheles throughout the book, and is the prime instigator of the evil doings of its characters. There is a great deal of appallingly dull and trite semireligious conversation, and ignorant criticism of Catholicism. The writing is careless, and full of inaccuracies of style and of grammar, "morphomaniac" grandes seignieurs" and "bon-bouche" are very bad mistakes.

"A Veldt Vendetta." By Bertram Mitford. London: Ward, Lock. 1903. 6s.

Mr. Mitford is generally at his best with Kaffirs, and at his worst with the love-episodes demanded in a conventional novel. "A Veldt Vendetta", however, is a really good story of adventure in the Eastern Province of Cape Colony in which his vicarious love-making is quite unobjectionable. The hero, brought by a strange chain of circumstances to South Africa, finds a home in a frontier farm and distinguishes himself in bucolic life tempered by Kaffir raids. We have seldom seen Cape Colony so well described, and the Boer question is successfully let alone. The book would be an excellent one for a boy—and for all in whom something of the boy remains—which is more than can be said of some of its predecessors. It is not remarkably original, but the scene in which the heroine rides straight from the bodies of her murdered father and brother into a Kaffir kraal, and rounds up the guilty chief in the very midst of his people, is quite first-rate.

"McTodd." By Cutcliffe Hyne. Macmillan and Co. 1903. 6s.

If less showy and miraculous than Captain Kettle, McTodd is certainly less irritating. Except for his constant use of "dissolute mechanic" and perpetual references to his mother, he is hardly ever tiresome. There is always a breezy seafaring atmosphere in Mr. Hyne's work, and a certain freshness of subject. The accurate (or apparently accurate) detail of life on these queer, suspicious vessels, the hairbreadth escapes and thrilling adventure of the resourceful McTodd, the local colour of the Esquimaux regions, and other scenes of his travels, combine to make amusing reading.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"Personalia: Political, Social and Various." By "Sigma."
Edinburgh: Blackwood. 1903. 5s.

These memories and anecdotes have appeared from time to time in "Blackwood's Magazine". The author protests in his prefatory note that they are not for the much-informed minority who perceive in every jest a "Joe Miller" and in every anec-

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dote a "chestnut". But surely some of his anecdotes must be very familiar to the ill-informed majority too. "By God! he is reported to have exclaimed dropping the newspaper, I had forgotten Goschen. But for that historic oversight", says "Sigma" solemnly, "Lord Milner might never have had his political chance". Everybody who dreads a fossilised chestnut may wish that Lord Randolph had not forgotten Goschen. Still there is some readable gossip in the book, and the author has evidently been in touch, directly and indirectly, with interesting people. An old Parliamentarian who sat in the House of Commons before the Reform Bill told "Sigma" that he had heard all the great Parliamentary leaders of his time, but not one of them equalled Canning. After Canning, he considered Daniel Whittle Harvey the most eloquent speaker he had ever heard. Harvey came into the House as an attorney with a third-rate practice. He helped Lord Melbourne's rickety Government by his speeches and confidently expected some fat berth as reward. At length a small office in connexion with the police seemed likely to fall to him. But the offer was not made. Harvey rushed to Lord Melbourne, and complained of the base way he had been treated. "My dear Harvey", said Melbourne, "I had made up my mind to offer it to you, but on sounding the three other commissioners, I found that the damned fellows refused point-blank to sit with you". The reminiscences and appreciations of various public men of to-day are not wanting either in grace or tact.

"Snipe and Woodcock." By L. H. De Visme Shaw. London: Longmans. 1903. 5s.

This is a pretty volume of the Fur and Feather Series to which Mr. R. L. Usher contributes a chapter on snipe and

(Continued on page 710.)

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woodcock in Ireland. In a final chapter Mr. A. Innes Shand serves both birds up at table. Mr. Whymper's and Mr. Thorburn's drawings are a pleasant relief from the monotony of "beautiful photographs" by which so many books are "illustrated" now. Mr. Shaw gives precise and no doubt sound directions to the man who would be a good snipe shot; but in practice we believe the long and short of it is that when the snipe rises within close range the sportsman who has complete control over his nerves will wait a bit till its flight strengthens; whilst if it rises at longer range, say, thirty-five or forty yards, he will no waste a moment. Mr. Shaw gives an interesting and what is to us a new account of the woodcock's bill and how exquisitely it is adapted to its work of probing for worms. He does not say much about woodcock food other than worms; but there is no doubt the bird feeds often enough on various insects; we have found insects in a woodcock we have killed in open weather. Mr. Shaw argues in favour of flight at great heights from the earth and with extreme rapidity during migration. Nothing has been proved one way or the other in this matter, but Gätke's views, which Mr. Shaw is evidently advancing, are the most authoritative. Gätke's "Birds of Heligoland" is a truly grand work: we wish that Messrs. Douglas could see their way to issue a cheaper edition of a book which ought to have a great circulation.

"Masters of English Landscape Painting"; "The Genius of Turner"; "Art of Our Time." Edited by Charles Holme. London: Offices of "The Studio". 1903.

The first two publications give for five shillings each a remarkable quantity of reproductions accompanied by essays on the masters represented. The first deals with Cotman, David Cox and Dewint. The treasures of the Print Room among other collections are drawn upon, and many students will make a first acquaintance in these pages with the magnificent drawings of Cotman that have recently come into the possession of that department. Among them is the "Greta Bridge". It is among the drawings selected for colour reproduction, and the result is rather unusually successful. Among the essays that of Mr. Binyon on Cotman is the most authoritative and interesting. The "Turner" also is richly illustrated with colour-blocks and black and white. The colour-blocks are among the best of their kind, coming in some cases remarkably near the originals. Reproductions from engravings are unsatisfactory at the best, but if it is borne in mind that this is so, the illustrations after Turner's engravings are a useful feature. The text of Mr. Shaw Sparrow and Mr. C. F. Bell is well informed. These remarkably cheap volumes will be most welcome to artists. The fascicules of "Representative Art of Our Time" now appear as a volume. It includes some good things, and also a good deal that is indifferent. We have dealt before with the colour reproductions and may briefly repeat that they are as good as the process employed allows of, though misleading if they are regarded as facsimiles. In the simpler cases they very nearly approach to that, and it is curious that some of the most complex are also surprisingly successful, such as Mr. Steer's landscape. The text seems to us rather slight and superfluous in a portfolio of this kind.

"In Russian Turkestan." By Annette M. B. Meakin. London: Allen. 1903. 7s. 6d.

Miss Meakin has travelled much in Mohammedan lands, and her accounts of what she saw in this "garden of Asia", among the Sarts, that curious blend of races from the Mongol to the Teuton, who inhabit Russian Turkestan, is informed by previous inquiries and observation among other Moslem people. Russia has done a great work for civilisation in Turkestan without destroying the racial and religious characteristics of its people: her officials are making of it a sort of Russian India, keeping order with a strong hand and opening up the country to the enterprise of her sons whilst respecting all proper customs and prejudices. The ordinary traveller does not, however, find Russian Turkestan as accessible as the remotest parts of India. Russia keeps it within a high wall of official mistrust. At the same time Miss Meakin seems to have had little difficulty in securing the necessary facilities for her visit and the fact that every globe-trotter has not "done" Turkestan naturally adds to the value and interest of her book.

"Barchester Towers." By Anthony Trollope. London: Blackie. 1903. 2s. 6d.

This is an edition of Trollope of a size generally associated with six-shilling novels having introductions and illustrations and plenty of gold scrolling on the covers, issued by Blackie and Son; those literary productions out of which the author confessed that he had made £70,000; "comfortabe but not splendid" in his opinion in a literary career extending from 1847 to 1876. Trollope was almost great and "Barchester Towers" is one of the best of his novels which were always sound and interesting and better worth reading than most recent-ones.

"Trade and the Empire." By H. H. Asquith. London: Methuen. 1903. 6d. net.

Messrs. Methuen have reprinted Mr. Asquith's speeches at Cinderford, Newcastle, Paisley and Worcester during the course of the year in opposition to Mr. Chamberlain's speeches at Glasgow and elsewhere. We need not speak of the arguments here but we may say that while there is a more literary air as of an academic tradition about Mr. Asquith's dissertations, they must have fallen far short of the stimulus supplied to popular audiences by those of Mr. Chamberlain.

We cannot take quite seriously the baby booklet type of reprint which is now being produced. It is true that a hundred years ago many authors were reprinted in miniature or diamond classic form, and there is little doubt that people bought such books then for the purpose of reading them. But in those days eyesight was a minor consideration: whereas to-day it is held by most sensible buyers and readers of books to be of the first importance. What need is there to try even the strongest eyesight by reading the "Vicar of Wakefield" in the midget edition (3s. net) which Messrs. Methuen have just brought out? There are half a dozen reasonably small editions printed in type that will not try the eyes. As a toy, however, or a curiosity in print it will hurt nobody.—The same publishers have produced FitzGerald's "Polonius" (2s. net) in a much more useful form, identical with their edition of FitzGerald's "Euphranor" which we noticed some months ago.—A third toy edition is Shake-speare in forty volumes with introductions and footnotes by Mr. W. F. Craig. The first seven volumes are "The Tempest" "Much Ado About Nothing", "Measure for Measure", "The Merry Wives of Windsor", and "A Midsummer Night's Dream". In their line they are pretty and distinctive.—Messrs. Bell have begun a new series called "The Pocket Book Classics". The price is 2s. net each volume, of which three have been published so far, "The Odes of Horace" with Conington's translation, Tennyson's "In Memoriam", "The Thoughts of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus" translated by George Long. They are well printed and bound in limp brown leather: we have seen nothing of the sort in better taste.

For This Week's Books see page 712.

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Bruxelles: Lacomblez; Paris: H. Le Soudier. 10fr.
The Life of Charles Haddon Spurgeon (Charles Ray). Isbister.

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Josiah Tucker, Economist: a Study in the History of Economics (Walter S. Clark). New York: Columbia University Press; London: King. 6s.

Further Recollections of a Diplomatist (Sir Horace Rumbold).

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The Story of the American Revolution (Henry Cabot Lodge).

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Personal Reminiscences of the Duke of Wellington by Francis, the
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of Strafford). Murray. 10s. 6d. net.

LAW.

The Practical Statutes of the Session 1903 (James Sutherland Cotton).

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A Treatise upon the Law of Extradition (Sir Edward Clarke. Fourth

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Sweet and Maxwell. £4 4s.

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Smith). Porter. 40s, net.

Big Game Shooting and Travel in South-East Africa (Frederick Roderick Noble Findlay). Unwin. 15s. net.

Eton Nature-Study and Observational Lessons (Matthew Davenport Hill and Wilfrid Mark Webb. Part I.). Duckworth. 3s. 6d. net.

A River of Norway (Charles Thomas-Stanford). Longmans. 9s. net.

REPRINTS AND TRANSLATIONS.

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Horace for English Readers (S. E. Wickham); The Four Socratic Dialogues of Plato (Translated into English by Benjamin Jowett). Oxford: at the Clarendon Press. 3s. 6d. net.

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(Continued on page 714.)

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London and Westminster Bank, Limited,

Lothbury, London, E.C.

2nd December, 1903.

NOTICES.

THE

EAST RAND MINING ESTATES.

LIMITED.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

To be submitted at the Second Ordinary General Meeting of the Company, to be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on Tuesday the 8th of December, 1903.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit their second Annual Report and the udited Accounts for the nine months ending 30th June, 1903.

CAPITAL.—No alteration has been made in the Capital of the Company since

the date of the last report.

FREEHOLD PROPERTIES.—The freehold properties of your Company still remain as stated in the previous Report, with the exception of the interest in Modderfontein (46, Pretoria) which has been sold to a company, particulars of which

Modderfontein (46, Pretoria) which has been sold to a company, particulars of which are given below.

In addition to your original farms the Company has acquired an interest in one of the most promising properties on the line of the Coronation reef. Considerable development has been carried out upon the property with satisfactory results.

BORING OPERATIONS,—GROOTVLEI.—The Grootvlei Prospecting Syndicate, Limited, who hold the option over the mineral rights (with exception of coal) on this farm, have put down two boreholes on the property, the positions of which are shown on the plan attached. The No. 1 borehole was started on the 16th September, 1902, the drill encountering the Van Ryn reef at a depth of 3,412 feet. The thickness of the reef was 21 inches, and the assay value 1 of 1,412 feet. The thickness of the reef was 21 inches, and the assay value 1 of 1,412 feet. The thickness of the reef was 21 inches of the footwall, the remainder giving 1 dwt, 2 inches of that which Dr. Hatch considers the best part of the reef being lost in boring. He further states that he regards the result as very satisfactory. The thickness of the reef and the depth at which it has been struck are considered by the Directors as most favourable features. Assay results from so small a section of the reef as that obtained by means of the drill cannot be looked upon as of any great importance, the chief object in putting down boreholes being to ascertain the depth and thickness of the gold-bearing reef, with a view to sinking the necessary shafts for working the property.

The No. 2 borehole was started on the 19th May last and has now reached a depth of 2,045 feet.

depth of 2,045 feet.

depth of 2,045 feet.

PALMIETKUIL—Three borsholes have been put down by the Company on this property. No. 1 borshole was started on the 1st September, 1902, and was stopped at a depth of 1,040 feet, Dr. Hatch being of opinion that this borshole was too far to the east to encounter the reef. A second borshole was started on the 44th February last and was continued to a depth of 3,000 feet, when boring was suspended. A third borshole was started on the 29th July last, and this is now down a depth of 1,350 feet. The position of these borsholes is shown on plan accompanying report. The question of sinking a further borshole on the boundary line of the farms Palmietkuil and Grootvlei, on joint account of this Company and the Grootvlei Proposeting Syndicate, is being hole on the boundary line of the farms Palmaetetuil and Grootvlei, on joint account of this Company and the Grootvlei Prospecting Syndicate, is being considered. It is estimated by Dr. Hatch that the reef would be struck in this borehole at 2,200 fept. The results of the boring operations on the farm Palmietkuil are awaited with the greatest degree of interest, as they will tend to throw considerable light on the subject of the reef formation in this neighbourhood, and the trend of the Van Ryn reef to the east of the Geduld and Grootvlei areas. The discoveries here will also have a most important bearing upon the value of the Company's option farms.

MODDERFONTEIN PROPRIETARY MINES, LIMITED.—This Company, which was formed in February last, to acquire the whole of the Farm Modderfontein No. 46 (2,600 morgen 212 square roods in extent), has a nominal capital of £350,000 in £1 shares, 270,000 fully-paid shares being issued in payment for the farm, 30,000 shares being subscribed at £2 per share for the provision of working capital, the remaining 50,000 shares being retained in reserve. Your Company has subscribed its proportion of these Working Capital Shares, its total holding in the Modderfontein Proprietary Mines, Limited, being 64,658 shares.

A borehole was started near the north-west boundary of this property in August, the depth of which, according to the latest information seceived,

GROOTVLEI PROSPECTING SYNDICATE, LIMITED -The option held by this Syndicate over the mineral rights on this farm expires on the 31st January, 1904, but your directors understand that as the Syndicate is satis-fied with the results of the boring operations carried out, the option will be fied with the results of the boring operations carried out, the option will be exercised. In this event a parent company will be formed to be called the Grootvlei Proprietary Mines, Limited, with a nominal capital of £400,000, in £5 shares, in which your Company will receive for its interest in the property 168,750 shares, for its interest in the Syndicate 22,500 shares, and will subscribe, as share-holders of the Syndicate, for 75,000 shares at par, which will give your Company a total holding of 266,250 shares out of an issued capital of 355,000 shares in the Grootvlei Proprietary Mines, Limited.

INTEREST IN MINERAL RIGHTS.—The Company has, during the period under review, purchased a half-interest in the mineral rights over a further property in the neighbourhood of the Coronation Reef. This property is now being prospected by means of a diamond drill.

OPTIONS OVER MINERAL RIGHTS.—The

OPTIONS OVER MINERAL RIGHTS.—The options over the whole or portions of the four farms in the Heidelberg District will not expire until 1905. It is proposed to prove these properties by means of diamond drills, as soon as Dr. Hatch is in a position to locate with some degree of certainty the most favourable points for starting the boreholes.

points for starting the borcholes.

It may be mentioned that very large prospecting operations by means of diamond drills are being carried out by other companies on many of the farms in the neighbourhood of these option farms.

AUDITORS.—The Company's Auditors, Messra. Cooper Brothers & Co., retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

The shareholders are asked to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year, and to fix their remuneration. CHESTERFIELD, Chairn

30th November, 1903.

Copies of report containing plan of the Campany's properties and balance-sheet can be obtained at the offices, Threadneedle House, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

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